



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Accord on Payment for Base Workers Signed

OW020715 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan and the United States signed a protocol Wednesday on the revision of a bilateral accord to enable Tokyo to pay all allowances of Japanese workers on U.S. bases in the country, the Foreign Ministry said.

The agreement, which is subject to approval by the Diet, is part of Japan's efforts to indirectly support U.S. measures to ensure the safety of international shipping in the Persian Gulf, through which Japan imports about 55 percent of its crude oil needs.

Under the current five-year special agreement between Tokyo and Washington, which went into effect last June, Japan shoulders up to half the cost of eight different allowances paid to the 21,000 Japanese employees at U.S. bases in Japan.

The new accord paves the way for Japan to pay the full cost of the allowances such as transportation, housing and retirement pay.

In the fiscal 1988 budget now being discussed by the Diet some 20.8 billion yen is allocated for the allowance payments based on the existing agreement.

The government reportedly plans to add allocations needed under the new pact later in the year through the compilation of a supplementary budget.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told U.S. President Ronald Reagan in January that Japan would double its contribution toward U.S. military costs.

The protocol was signed by Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and U.S. Charge d'Affaires L. Desaix Anderson.

UN Envoy Urges U.S. Not To Close PLO Mission

OW020403 Tokyo KYODO in English 0321 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] New York, March 1 KYODO—The Japanese United Nations Ambassador asked the United States Tuesday to abide by its obligations under its agreement with the UN and not close the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) mission at the UN.

Ambassador Hideo Kagami told the UN General Assembly that if the U.S. does not abide by its obligations, procedures should be taken to settle the dispute between the U.S. and UN.

The ambassador also expressed hope for an early settlement of the dispute acceptable to all parties concerned.

EPA Notes U.S. Stand on Beef, Citrus Issue

OW011217 Tokyo KYODO in English 0459 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—The United States is adopting a tough posture in demanding that Japan completely liberalize beef and citrus imports in two years, a top government economic policy planner said Tuesday.

Eiichi Nakao, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), told reporters he has advised leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to "fully understand such a situation" in tackling the issue.

He proposed that a mission of LDP lawmakers be dispatched to Washington to explain Japan's position on the dispute.

The U.S. has threatened to lodge a complaint on the issue with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Geneva-based world trade watchdog, if Japan fails to specify a liberalization timetable before March 31, when a bilateral beef and citrus import quota accord expires.

Takeshita Meets With Australia's Bowen

OW011215 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita assured Australian Deputy Prime Minister Lionel Bowen Tuesday that Japan will never sacrifice Australia to settle its trade disputes with the United States, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Bowen, paying a courtesy call on Takeshita at his official residence, told the prime minister that Australia wants to further strengthen trade relations with Japan.

Takeshita agreed with Bowen's call for a better trade partnership between Japan and Australia, the official said in a briefing to reporters.

In response to Bowen's invitation for Takeshita to visit Australia, the prime minister replied he hopes to visit the country if his political schedule allows it, the official said.

Takeshita was earlier reported planning to visit Australia sometime this year, as it marks the bicentennial of the country's founding.

Bowen was in Tokyo on his way home after attending the inauguration ceremony of South Korean President No Tae-u in Seoul on February 25. Takeshita also attended the ceremony.

The Foreign Ministry official, who was present at the 25-minute session, said Australian coal and iron ore have a 40-60 percent share of the Japanese market.

But the share of Australian grass-fed beef has declined from 95 percent to 55 percent in recent years, the official said.

The Australians are concerned about Japan's vulnerability to pressures from Washington, which is pushing Tokyo to increase imports of grain-fed, high-quality beef.

The official quoted Bowen as saying that Australia would welcome more Japanese tourists and that Sydney appreciates Japan's donation toward the construction of a science and technology center.

Takeshita Briefs Emperor on Foreign Policy
OW011225 Tokyo KYODO in English 0629 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Tuesday he has briefed Emperor Hirohito about three overseas visits he made since coming to power last November.

Takeshita, 64, meeting the 86-year-old monarch at the Imperial Palace for 51 minutes, told reporters he conveyed messages from foreign heads of state or government who wished the emperor well in recovering from surgery last September.

This was Takeshita's first briefing with the emperor about state administration since he succeeded Yasuhiro Nakasone as prime minister November 6.

It was also Takeshita's first visit to the emperor since November 7, when he and Nakasone jointly went to the palace to discuss the leadership change.

The prime minister, talking with reporters briefly after the session, said he discussed his visits to the Philippines in December, to the United States and Canada in January and to South Korea last week.

The emperor listened eagerly to the prime minister and posed a few questions, Takeshita said.

Emperor Hirohito, who will turn 87 on April 29, had an intestinal bypass operation in September. Doctors said the emperor was suffering from an inflammation of the pancreas.

Takeshita said it appeared as though the emperor has recovered much of his health.

Joint CSSR Trade Group To Hold Panel Meeting
OW020835 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan and Czechoslovakia will hold a joint commission meeting from March 9-11 to exchange views on bilateral trade and economic relations, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Jan Garcar, vice minister at the Czech Foreign Trade Ministry, will lead the six-member Czechoslovakian team and Kazutoshi Hasegawa, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, will head the Japanese side.

The two countries agreed to establish Japanese-Czechoslovak mixed commission in 1978 when then Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda visited Czechoslovakia.

It will be the fifth in the series of meetings which have been held alternately in Tokyo and Prague.

Mongolia

Daily Urges East-West Strategic Parity
OW011125 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English
1723 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 29 February (OANA-MONTSAME)—The fact that that joint Soviet-American communique on the outcomes of the USSR and USA summit and the treaty inscribes the idea that the two great powers, in a military-strategic as well as economic respect, will not strive for military superiority, is a great historic achievement of the present. The document reflects the essence and understanding of the fact that there should be no victors at our nuclear and cosmic age, the national daily UNEN writes in its signed commentary.

In the light of the Soviet-America I.N.F. treaty and planned real prospects of signing a treaty on a 50 percent reduction of strategic offensive arms of the USSR and USA, the West intensifies the groundless speculation of alleged Soviet military and strategic superiority over the USA. In this connection, the national daily UNEN underlines that at present a favorable precondition has been created for real estimation of the military and strategic parity between the USSR and USA, as well as Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO. The over-stressing of this complicated problem by separate sides without an account of specific features and differences of its organizational and composite structure is extremely irresponsible. It is possible to picture the real military-strategic parity between the USSR and the USA only in a comprehensive approach taking into account the political, economic, geographical, humanitarian, psychological and military aspects of the problem and to advance further on this basis the cause of delivering mankind from lethal weapons, UNEN underlines.

North Korea

No Regime Seen as 'Continued Military Rule'

SK020530 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2147 GMT 27 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 28 February commentary: "A Farce To Justify the Prolonging of Military Rule"]

[Text] On 25 February, the so-called ceremony of traitor No Tae-u's swearing in as president was held in Seoul in the presence of his U.S. and Japanese masters. The game called the inaugural ceremony was nothing but a farce to camouflage his act of usurping power and to justify and make the prolonging of the dictatorship lawful.

Despite the fact that the South Korean people have not only declared No Tae-u's win in the presidential election, attained through unprecedented violence and vote fraud, null and void, but they also strongly called on him to step down, he has pushed forward his game called the inaugural ceremony by all means. This is a vicious challenge to the South Korean people and public opinion at home and abroad as well as an intolerable antinational act.

Although No Tae-u went through a long list of subjects in his so-called inaugural address, as if he were about to effect some new changes or something else, using all sorts of flowery words to beautify his filthy face, the speech was full of empty words and contained nothing new.

The puppet traitor has declared that the so-called new regime is a government of the people after stating that the remnants of feuds of 40 years have all been swept away due to the people's choice of democracy. The South Korean people who have witnessed and experienced it with their own eyes know more clearly than anybody else how he came into the presidential office.

From the time he declared himself a presidential candidate, No Tae-u has faced the strong denunciation and rejection of the South Korean people. He is a two-bit president who has barely managed to fabricate a mere 30 percent voter support even after having employed government power, bribery, and vote fraud to the fullest extent. No one among the people accepts the puppet as president or holds the view that the change of government through his taking of power will bring about even a modicum of change to the nature of the military dictatorial regime.

Just like the proverb: Do not expect the extraordinary, the so-called new regime which has come into being amid the people's condemnation that it deserves nothing but the death penalty is a reactionary, antipopular, and antinational ruling instrument in view of the truculent fascist disposition of No Tae-u, the caudillo of the new regime, and in view of the background against which it has been fabricated, against the will of the people, through use of the bayonet and a cabal, the only methods

he has been able to use to fabricate his taking of power. Therefore, it is nothing but an extension of the Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime revised for the worse.

Although the puppet noisily clamored about democratic reconciliation and democracy in an attempt to hide the farce designed to prolong the dictatorship, the actuality is exactly the opposite. Stung by the South Korean people's tireless antidictatorial struggle, the puppet has put the whole of South Korea on a Class A alert, thereby creating a murderous terror-stricken atmosphere. Finding it still unsatisfactory, the puppet, while threatening to block meetings and demonstrations against his inauguration by all means, had to play the game called the swearing-in ceremony amid a de facto imposition of martial law, with the puppet police and agents controlling the streets in Seoul. This is a far cry from reconciliation or democracy.

His threats in his inaugural speech that an era in which one can create chaos on the pretext of self-regulation and participation has come to an end is an expression of his immutable disposition of a military thug and is therefore nothing but an undisguised declaration of suppression that he will suppress and obliterate the patriotic and democratic forces by wielding the bayonet.

On this day, No Tae-u, while attempting to make people believe that a new regime had been established, heaped hypocritical words to justify prolonging military rule and hide his true color as a colonial puppet, saying that a new era of national self-esteem has unfurled or that he would open a new era of ordinary people after doing away with authoritarianism.

In order to usher in an era of genuine national self-esteem in South Korea which has remained under the military occupation of the U.S. imperialists, under their political domination, and under a state of economic subjugation for over 40 years, it is imperative to remove the colonial relationship dominated by the U.S. imperialists, sweep away the fascist military rule, and establish an independent and democratic government as desired by the people, thereby realizing the cause of converting society into one governed by independence and democracy.

The game called the change of government played in South Korea, which went according to the behind-the-scenes control and engineering of the United States, is nothing but a farce designed to keep alive and prolong the colonial dictatorial system through the change of the person on duty. It has brought no change of position in South Korean society, nor can it.

How can South Korea even imagine a new era of national self-esteem while it is under the colonial domination of the U.S. imperialists and under circumstances in which its national dignity and sovereignty are mercilessly trampled underfoot? In view of the social and economic structure and ruling system in South Korea, it

is impossible to even conceive of building a democratic welfare state in South Korea in which alien aggressors, comprador groups which have an affiliation with the alien aggressors, and the privileged class keep all the power and wealth to themselves and subdue and extort the people, and, with the principle of the rich-getting-richer and the poor-getting-poorer at work, a privileged group—a handful of people—enjoy luxury, while the absolute majority of the working people suffer from an extreme form of difficulties in their livelihood and, therefore, the babbling about ushering in an era of ordinary people does not make sense at all.

Antipopular violence is an indispensable modus vivendi of the dictators who run counter to the trend of the times. It is empty rhetoric that a dictator who has not only massacred thousands of his fellow countrymen to seize power and who is staying in power even today by resorting to violence should babble about doing away with authoritarianism. It is an intolerable mockery of the people.

If he is really willing to do away with authoritarianism, he should liquidate, first of all, all manner of fascist evil laws, including the notorious National Security Law which constitutes the foundation for dictatorship, and suppressive institutions, discontinue suppressing the people in their righteous struggle, unconditionally release political prisoners, and ensure democratization in sociopolitical life without delay.

That No Tae-u stated that he would develop friendly relations with countries in the West and that he would actively pursue a policy toward the North in his inaugural speech is nothing but an expression of his wicked intention to cling to confrontation with us by keeping the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression stationed in South Korea and by intensifying political and military collusion with the Japanese reactionaries and to scheme to perpetuate the division by upholding the U.S. imperialists' policy of two Koreas.

His unpatriotic and splittist nature as such is fully demonstrated in his undisguised call for coexisting with us while conducting dialogue with us. While uttering not a word about our proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference, a most timely and reasonable measure to turn tension on the Korean peninsula favorable to peace and peaceful reunification within this year, he stated that the door to dialogue is constantly kept open. This is nothing but brazen hypocrisy and a political machination.

What is more, he will find it difficult to persuade the people with his babbling about dialogue and reunification, no matter how enthusiastically he may be, while frenziedly kicking up anti-Republic commotions by babbling about the nonexistent threats and provocation and at the same time conducting with the United States a large-scale "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise with a view toward striking at us.

Simply put, traitor No Tae-u's inaugural speech has laid in full view his intentions to cheat the people, to strengthen the fascist suppressive rule, and to dart toward treason, division, and war.

The advent of the No Tae-u regime has laid obstacles to the road to democratization in South Korea and made it difficult for the South Korean people to extricate themselves from the yoke of fascist colonial rule, thereby increasing the danger of war. And as a result, obstacles still remain in the road leading to national reunification, the aspiration of the people.

As indicated by the anti-U.S. and antidictatorial struggle that have been fiercely staged across the country in the wake of the game called the swearing in ceremony, the South Korean people unanimously oppose and reject No Tae-u's taking of power and strongly demand that he step down from the position of power.

No Tae-u should act discreetly by heeding the people's voices and should step down from the position of power without delay.

It was none other than the United States that pushed No Tae-u, who is forsaken by the people in South Korea, into the position of power. Keeping the pro-U.S. military dictatorship in South Korea alive is the demand of the U.S. imperialists' policy toward Korea and protecting and making the dictator serve as a colonial running dog is the unchanging technique of the U.S. imperialists for aggression.

Experience acquired in the course of history and stark reality teaches that there can be no democratization in South Korea without the realization of the anti-U.S. cause of turning society into one governed by independence.

It is therefore extremely natural for the South Korean youths, students, and people of all walks of life, drawing a lesson from this, to stage a vigorous struggle to crush the U.S. imperialists' aggression and interference, to end military rule, and to establish an independent and democratic government under the banner of the anti-U.S. cause of turning society into one governed by independence.

The South Korean people and the democratic forces will never stop struggling to end the colonial dictatorial rule of the U.S. imperialists and the military hooligans and to achieve independence, democracy, and reunification and will achieve their righteous aspirations without fail.

Commentator Views No Tae-u Inauguration
SK020707 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil:
"A Government-Patronized Farce Designed To Justify
Prolonging Military Rule"]

[Text] As has been reported, on 25 February traitor No Tae-u staged the farce of being inaugurated as president despite the South Korean people's resolute opposition and rejection.

The farce of the inauguration was designed simply to shield his act of illegally and unlawfully snatching power and to justify prolongation of the military rule. That the inauguration farce was staged under a virtual state of a martial law, in which they issued a Class A emergency duty order to police all over South Korea for fear of the South Korean people's resistance, and that they even took the suppressive step of blocking the people's opposition demonstrations and rallies at their source, shows that it is not a drama that heralds the dawn of an era of democratization, but one designed to prolong the dictatorship to continuously impose military fascist rule on the people.

As for the so-called inaugural speech delivered by traitor No Tae-u, it was full of false flowery words designed to deceive public opinion and dazzle the people; there was nothing new worth hearing.

The puppet traitor mentioned many such words as democracy and national reconciliation, embellishing his so-called new regime as a so-called government of the people. This is shameless, brazen, and deceptive gibberish. It may be needless to recall that traitor No Tae-u was sentenced to political death by the South Korean people during the June popular resistance last year and that he could fabricate scarcely more than 30 percent of the total votes cast in favor of him by means of the most fraudulent election in history in which government power and money power were massively mobilized.

Traitor No Tae-u, far from being acknowledged by the South Korean people as president, is jeered as one-fourth of a president, the object of curses and overthrow. Therefore, it is the manifestation of shamelessness suitable for a thief of power that he should babble about a government of the people. Also, no matter how hard the hardened military hooligan and fascist murderer—who played a leading role in the 12 December Army purge coup d'etat and the Kwangju massacre—may rave about democracy, human rights, and the termination of authoritarianism, everyone will be able to see through the mask of a jackal that attempts to wear a sheep's skin.

In the inaugural speech, he raved that it is no longer an era during which one can create confusion under the pretext of autonomy and participation, thereby not concealing his fascist scheme to ruthlessly suppress patriotic democratic forces. The slogans of democracy and national reconciliation babbled by the puppet are deceptive publicity designed to cajole opposition parties and opposition forces into leaving the ranks of the antidictatorship struggle and solidify the foundation of dictatorship by calming down the people's struggle against prolongation of the military rule. The slogans are also synonymous with the fascist wielding of guns and bayonets in disguise.

Traitor No Tae-u's raving that day about an era of national self-respect is a preposterous and ridiculous tactic that may be used as material for a cartoon. It may

not be necessary to take instances to prove that South Korea is a typical colony under the U.S. imperialists' military occupation and that the No Tae-u ring is a ring of colonial stooges who cannot survive even one day without the support and behind-the-scenes control of the U.S. and Japanese masters. The drama of transferring power in South Korea itself is a change of stooges based on the U.S. imperialists' scenario and behind-the-scenes manipulations.

The South Korean people are waging an anti-U.S. struggle because South Korea has been deprived of its national sovereignty under U.S. colonialism.

No matter how hard he may engage in such deceptive talk, traitor No Tae-u will not be able to shield his nature as a colonial puppet and national traitor, nor will he be able to win favor with the people.

Traitor No Tae-u babbled about dialogue and reunification in his inaugural speech. This was sheer hypocrisy as well. No matter how loudly they rave about dialogue and reunification, no one will believe that they are serious, as they responded to our peace proposal with a vicious anti-Republic smear campaign and with the extremely provocative "Team Spirit-88" war exercise being conducted with the U.S. imperialists.

The true intention of the puppets is confrontation and division. He himself openly revealed the divisive scheme when he called for dialogue for coexistence and northward diplomacy.

The facts show that although a transfer of power is said to have come about in South Korea, there is nothing changed and that democratization and the cause of reunification will continuously run against grave challenges and obstacles.

As long as the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and the military rule continue in South Korea, neither the people's demand for democracy nor their aspirations for social change will be realized.

The South Korean people will be able to realize their noble aspirations and demands only when they wage a vigorous and continuous antifascist struggle for democratization, upholding at the van the anti-U.S. slogan for independence. The No Tae-u ring will attempt to find a way to survive by prolonging the military rule with the U.S. imperialists' backing, but they will never be safe. The end of the dictator who contradicts the people's aspirations is destined to be a tragic one. The South Korean people will certainly deal a stern hard blow to traitor No Tae-u.

No Tae-u Issues 'Emergency Alert' Order
SK020505 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN today accuses the No Tae-u clique of cracking down on the people right after coming to power.

The paper says in a signed commentary:

Fearful of "social confusion" occasioned by the anniversary of the March First popular uprising against Japanese imperialism, the No clique issued an "emergency alert order" again to police throughout South Korea for crackdown on the people.

The "scorched earth operation" launched by the traitor No Tae-u against the democratic forces right after seating himself in the "presidential" chair clearly shows once again that "democratic development," "democracy and concord" and "implementation of commitments" on his lips are all a sheer lie to whitewash his illegal seizure of "power."

The No clique schemes to make South Korea a sanguinary pandemonium of fascism again to carry on the "parliamentary elections" and the Olympic games without a hitch and lay a foundation of the military dictatorial "regime" in the same way as he rigged up his "victory in the presidential election" after covering South Korea with a repressive network. A patent proof of this is that the No clique is hastening the organization of the "Olympic security guards" 120,000 strong equipped with sophisticated police outfit and is organizing supplementary police forces 800,000 strong, including the "voluntary mobile patrol parties" allegedly to ensure the security of the Olympic games.

Judging from the acts of the puppets, it is as clear as noonday that they would make no scruple to commit a brutal violence in the future. With no bayonet, however, can they save their ill-fated destiny.

KPA Warns Against 'Attack'

SK020427 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0412 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique make a reckless attack again on the North, failing to draw a bitter lesson from the past, they will be unable to escape a heavier defeat than that they sustained in the '50s.

This warning came from meetings held at the units of the Korean People's Army to which comrades Yi Tae-ho and Pak Myong-son belong in denunciation of the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and their nuclear war manoeuvres.

Speakers at the meetings said that the bellicose and aggressive war rehearsal is a rash one which can be committed only by the foes of peace. The enemies, talking about "sanctions," are taking issue with us who sent even the People's Army soldiers to peaceful construction. This reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief" and is foolish enough, they said.

They stressed that the Korean people and People's Army soldiers would never pardon the mean aggressive plot of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges.

The U.S. imperialists must clearly realize the firm will of the Korean people and the People's Army soldiers never to allow the enemy to impair the dignity and sovereignty of the nation.

U.S. Denounced for Blaming North for Tension
SK020501 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0442 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN today denounces the U.S. military brasshats for trying to shift responsibility for the tension created on the Korean peninsula and the increasing danger of war there to the North.

Hays, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Forces, saying that the Korean peninsula is "an area where the degree of the danger of war is highest in the Northeast Asian region", told a cock-and-bull story that the North is to blame for this, and Armitage, assistant secretary of the U.S. Defense Department, blew the trumpet that the North cast "a dark shadow" over this region, a signed commentary notes, and goes on:

Their utterances are a false propaganda wholly distorting the realities and reversing black and white and a shameless sophism to deceive and flout public opinion at home and abroad.

The U.S. imperialists, invariably seeking division and war, extended the military dictatorship in South Korea, strengthened the anti-DPRK smear campaign, reinforced armed forces and started the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises.

It is, indeed, ridiculous and foolish for the U.S. military brasshats to try to shift the responsibility for the tense situation on the Korean peninsula and the increasing danger of war to the North, crying about the "threat of attack" by it and "dark shadow".

The tense situation on the Korean peninsula and the increasing danger of war are entirely because of the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and their arms buildup and manoeuvres to invade the North. Owing to this, the Korean peninsula has become an area where the "degree of the danger of war is highest" in the Northeast Asian region and the "dark shadow" is cast over this region.

The U.S. imperialists must be clearly aware that they have nothing to profit from slandering the North by faking up a ridiculous story.

Chongnyon Denounces 'Team Spirit-88'

*SK021032 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo March 1 (KNS-KCNA)—A central meeting of Koreans in Japan was held in Tokyo on March 1 in denunciation of the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and their anti-DPRK smear campaign.

Addressing the meeting, Pak Chae-no, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), denounced the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique for having started the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal instead of responding to a series of peaceful initiatives proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and strongly demanded them to put an immediate end to the criminal war exercises.

He said that the intrigue of the Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppet clique over the missing KAL incident is a habitual method the puppets used whenever they faced a crisis.

He demanded the Japanese reactionaries to renounce at once the hostile policy they are pursuing in league with the South Korean puppets against the DPRK and Chongnyon.

Speeches were also made at the meeting by Manae Kubota, socialist member of the House of Councillors of Japan; Shizuo Mishima, director of the educational and cultural department of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan; and Sumiko Shimizu, chairman of the central headquarters of the Council of Japanese Women and director of the secretariat of the Liaison Council of Japanese Women for Solidarity with the Korean Women.

They stressed that they would struggle against the anti-DPRK, anti-Chongnyon manoeuvres stepped up by the Japanese Government hand in glove with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, and continue to make efforts to ease the tension and realize peace on the Korean peninsula.

Meeting on Chemical Warfare Reported

*SK021028 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1020 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets clique held the 14th South Korea-U.S. "joint conference for chemical, biological and radioactive warfare" at the Unit 5672 of the puppet air force for three days till February 29, according to a report.

Discussed there were the so-called "measures to enhance the combat capacity for the joint chemical, biological and radioactive warfare", "plan for the demonstrative defense exercise of the joint chemical warfare" and "increase of combat capacity" under the South Korea-U.S. joint system.

At the end of the confab, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets held a "demonstrative training for neutralizing poison" with the "newly-developed equipment for neutralizing poison in the plane" at a puppet air force unit, crying about the "raising of the airforce combat capacity" under the so-called "chemical warfare condition".

This shows how recklessly the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique run wild to ignite a chemical and bacteriological war along with a nuclear war in Korea.

The Korean people are watching closely the manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges. If the enemy ignites a war against the North, they will answer it with a hundred-fold, a thousand-fold retaliation.

Zhao Ziyang Supports DPRK Proposals

*SK020431 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0420 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, had an interview with the president of the Japanese ASAHI SHIMBUN on February 27, according to a XINHUA report.

He said the relations between China and the DPRK were extremely good and China continues to support the stand of the DPRK for independence, peace and reunification and supports the proposals for a North-South dialogue and tripartite talks involving the North and the South of Korea and the United States.

China will continue to work for easing the tension on the Korean peninsula and support proposals and steps for it.

Castro Reiterates Cuba's Stand on Olympics

*SK020449 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0431 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Havana February 29 (KCNA)—Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, reiterated Cuba's stand on the 24th Olympic games at an interview with a reporter of the U.S. NBC television on February 27.

Noting that he did not repent of Cuba's declaration of boycotting the "Seoul Olympiad", he said:

I think that to host the Olympic games in Seoul is as good as holding the games at the Guantanamo Naval Base occupied by the United States.

We boycotted the Los Angeles Olympiad and have no intention to go to Seoul as an expression of unity with the socialist countries.

Because this is a problem of principle.

The forthcoming Olympic games to be used as a tool will give no help not only to peace but also to the unity of the Korean people, we think. We have supported the co-sponsorship of the Olympic games. If the co-sponsorship was realized, we would participate in the games with honor.

We made much efforts in this direction.

He said that it is dishonourable to participate in the Olympiad under the condition where the hope for democracy in South Korea and co-sponsorship has not come true.

Noting that it is disgraceful for Cuba, an independent country which sets great store by independence and regards it as very honorable, to participate in the "Seoul Olympiad", he stressed.

We do not exchange our principle for a few gold medals.

Cuba is an independent and sovereign state and we have our own view. We not only think so now but also will act so for ever.

I think that those who think we must go to Seoul because some other countries decided to go to Seoul are those who have no thought of the dignity and independence of a country, he said.

If the Olympic games are cohosted, Cuba will, needless to say, go, he said, and stressed:

It is definite. If the problem is solved this way, how nice it would be! It is our wish and for it we have struggled.

Mongolia Denounces Anti-DPRK Campaign

SK020429 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0416 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—We join the broad public circles of the world in demanding an end to the hostile campaign against the democratic People's Republic of Korea.

So stressed a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Mongolian People's Republic at a news briefing for reporters.

At the briefing he exposed the anti-DPRK smear campaign of the United States, Japan and the South Korean puppets.

He denounced the South Korean authorities for having recently faked up the KAL incident at the instigation of the United States to launch an undisguised and hostile campaign against the DPRK, while putting their armed forces in a full combat posture to endanger the DPRK.

Referring to the anti-DPRK campaign of the U.S. and Japanese Governments, he stressed:

The anti-DPRK row of the South Korean authorities is aimed at aggravating military and political confrontation on the Korean peninsula, justifying their belligerent moves and diverting elsewhere the attention of the people whose anti-"government" spirit is running high.

We have grounds to fully prove this.

Meeting at Myongdong Cathedral Praised

SK020735 (Clandestine) Voice of National
Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT
21 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] On the afternoon of 20 February, a meeting of national resolve for democratic general elections was held at the Myongdong Cathedral under the joint sponsorship of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], the Hanyore Democratic Party, the Party of the Masses, and the College Student Representatives Council of Seoul, with the participation of about 2,000 students and citizens. The participants condemned and denounced the vicious maneuvers of the No Tae-u ring scheming to divide and demolish the democratic forces and prolong the military rule.

At this meeting, [name indistinct], former president of the Yonsei University student council; Rev [name indistinct] of the PPD; [name indistinct] of the Hanyore Democratic Party; and many others called for crushing the machinations of the No Tae-u ring to divide the democratic forces and the unity of the democratic forces. The participants resolved, through a joint letter of resolution, to check the DJP's medium constituency system and its suppressive and divisive maneuvers against democratic forces. The participants of this meeting staged a street demonstration and a sit-in struggle after the meeting. When the antigovernment demonstration rapidly expanded as citizens joined in, the military dictatorial group, frightened by this, dispatched many suppressive police troops and committed the bestial violence of illegally whisking away many demonstrators, firing tear gas canisters, and beating demonstrators at random with billy clubs.

This meeting of resolve at the Myongdong Cathedral is a very just struggle that speaks for the consistent will and yearning of our people who call for an end to the military dictatorship and democratization. Therefore, it cannot be a crime or an object of suppression. Nevertheless, the No Tae-u ring suppressed and whisked them away for

participating in the meeting and demonstration, the most elementary basic right of the people. This is intolerable fascist violence and a crime.

The No Tae-u ring is now accelerating the strategy of mean maneuvers and suppression to divide and demolish the democratic forces and is attempting to solidify the basis for the military dictatorship by holding National Assembly elections using all forms of fraudulent means. This is clearly revealed by the fact that No Tae-u, in the formation of his so-called cabinet, had ministers of key posts, who played important roles in the fraudulent 16 December election, remain in their posts and by the fact that they are attempting to forcibly pass the medium-size constituency system through the National Assembly.

This shows that the No Tae-u ring is attempting to solidify the military dictatorial system and continue the military rule by employing any base means. This also shows that as long the No Tae-u ring and the military ruling system remain intact, it is impossible to realize our people's desire for independence, democracy, and reunification. Therefore, it is very desirable that the thousands of people from the opposition parties, academic circles, citizens, and students condemn and denounce the No Tae-u ring's criminal maneuvers, call for the unity of the democratic forces, and stage a demonstration and sit-in struggle, in the face of the fascist suppression of the military dictatorship and in order to bring an end to the military dictatorship and for democratization.

The No Tae-u ring now raves about democracy and national reconciliation as if it were about to implement democratic politics to meet the people's aspirations, but this is a cunning tactic to deceive the people. Bringing to an end the military dictatorship and democratization cannot come about freely. This can only be won when all the people are united and wage a resolute struggle against the United States and the No Tae-u ring. Therefore, our people should not have any expectations or fantasies about the No Tae-u ring's cunning tactic of deceiving the people, but wage a stubborn anti-U.S. and antidictatorship struggle for national salvation, holding further aloft the banner of independence, democracy, and reunification, until they banish the U.S. rulers from this land and liquidate the military dictatorial group.

Daily on WPK Central Committee's Slogans
SK011525 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article entitled "Our Party's Revolutionary Calls Are Militant Banner for Brilliant Victory and Feat" in connection with the calls advanced by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"A revolutionary slogan is a powerful banner which shows the masses the goal and the course of action and imbues them with courage and confidence."

Our party issued revolutionary calls on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding, providing our people with one more powerful militant banner.

The calls put forward by the party Central Committee appeal to the entire party members and other working people to bring about a great upsurge in all sectors of socialist construction under the uplifted banner of the great chuche idea and the three revolutions and celebrate this year that marks the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding as the most significant year in the history of our country.

They are a powerful banner inspiring our people to press on with the grand project in the spirit of chollima plus the speed campaign.

The might of the party's calls lies in the fact that they most correctly reflect the unanimous desire and requirement of our people for devoting their all to the prosperity and development of the DPRK under the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea.

It is an unshakable creed and steadfast determination of our people to bring the revolutionary cause to accomplishment under the banner of the chuche idea under any circumstances.

"Let us firmly establish chuche in the revolution and construction and live in our own way!" and other calls of the party Central Committee vividly reflect such determination and will of our people.

As the calls clearly represent the ardent desire and aspiration of the Korean people to live up to the honour of being the citizens of chuche korea, a most dignified country with a high prestige, and discharge their duties as such, they grasp the heart of the entire party members and other working people.

The calls powerfully encourage our people to a new victory because they comprehensively and clearly indicate the target, direction and concrete ways of successfully carrying out the vast tasks facing us.

They manifest valuable ideological principles to which our party members and working people should hold fast at present, the principles of firmly establishing the revolutionary outlook on the leader, bearing deep in mind the Korean-nation-first idea and fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu and the revolutionary

spirit of fortitude and self-reliance. They also elucidate concrete tasks and ways for their fulfilment for all sectors and units in accelerating the grand project.

The calls are also a valuable guideline to strengthen the revolutionary character of our society and make the entire people work and live in a prepared and militant way as required by the present situation.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are frantically conducting an anti-DPRK campaign and a large-scale military rehearsal against the DPRK, leading the situation to the brink of a war.

"Let us all work and live in a militant way as required by the revolutionary era!" "Let us produce, study and live like the anti-Japanese guerrillas!"

When all our party members and other working people live and strive as always in a tense and revolutionary way in any place as required by these calls, no enemy can attack us and no unsound ideology can infiltrate into our society.

South Korea

No Offers To Meet 'Anyone' for Reunification

SK012307 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
2 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday said he will meet with anyone if it is conducive to national unification.

In a speech at a ceremony marking the 69th anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement, he said, "I will meet with anyone in any place to open the way for national reunification.

"However difficult it may be, I will not be hesitant or afraid of taking that road."

No urged North Korea to withdraw all its political demands and participate in the Seoul Summer Olympics this year.

"If our people from the South and the North can stand together in front of the Olympic torch burning in Chamsil, then we can create new history of removing obstacles to unification," he said.

A new era of national self-respect should be based on reconciliation, he said at the commemorative ceremony at the Seoul Sejoing Cultural Center.

"While commemorating the holy ideals of our predecessors, we should overcome petty disputes and division for a grand unity," he said.

If there is regional division in a divided nation, he said, the Korean people should open their hearts for reconciliation.

Efforts should be made to reduce the generation gap, said No, who maintained democracy means harmony.

He also said he will pursue improved relations with China and the Soviet Union, which have official relations with Pyongyang but do not recognize Seoul.

Seeks Improved Ties With PRC, USSR

SK012310 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday declared an end to rule by the "power" of the state and called for development of democracy based on "national pride" and "harmony."

Speaking to a ceremony marking the 69th anniversary of the country's March 1 Independence Movement at Sejoing Cultural Center, No noted, "The chorus of democracy lies not in uniformity but in harmony."

President No asked North Korea to put aside its various political demands and take part in the Seoul Olympics. He said that there can be no conditions to North Korea's participation in the Olympiad, the world's greatest festival of peace that is to be participated in by all the countries of the world.

No, calling for grand national reconciliation, stressed, "All people should combine their efforts and display wisdom to join in the chorus of democracy across the country so that people's opinions are advanced diversely."

The President strongly pleaded with the people to build a society in which all citizens' potentialities can be fulfilled to the maximum possible extent for national development.

He then asked the people to renew their resolve to open a new era of national reconciliation by tolerating the faults of others, thus clearing away strife generated in past decades.

"National harmony is the way to honor the spirit of the March 1 Independence Movement, characterized by national self-reliance and pride," President No said.

No also noted that the peaceful unification of the divided peninsula will be the realization of the lofty spirit of our forefathers who initiated the March 1 Independence Movement."

The President said that he will meet with anyone regardless of time and place if it helps to pave the way for the unification of the peninsula.

Calling for North Korea's participation in the Seoul Olympics, No said, "As brethren of the same country, we will warmly welcome our brothers and sisters from the northern half."

"If the brethren from the North stand before the sacred torch of the Olympics in the Chamsil Stadium, we will be able to create a new history, removing a barrier to territorial unification," the President said.

No went on to say that he will actively seek to improve relations with "continental countries" north of the Korean peninsula, a reference to China and the Soviet Union.

Interview With Prime Minister-Designate Yi
SK020803 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
22 Feb 88 p 3

[Report by Kim Chung-sik on TONG-A ILBO interview with Prime Minister-Designate Yi Hyon-chae, at his home on the evening of 20 February]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister-designate Yi Hyon-chae could spare time only on the evening of 20 February. After the unfamiliar title of prime minister-designate was given, he was unable to spare his time, because he was tied up with forming the new cabinet. [passage omitted]

When he was asked to join the Assembly for National Security in 1980 and the Committee for Democracy and Reconciliation recently, he rejected the offers. In explanation, he said: "I decided not to join for various reasons. However, I don't want to explain the reasons right now."

[TONG-A ILBO] "On the prime minister's authority and function, there has been the assessment that the prime minister does not actually do anything, but simply plays the role of reading the president's speeches. Expectations are being raised over the role of the prime minister, who has authority in both name and reality. Would you please disclose your basic plan for cabinet operations?"

[Yi Hyon-chae] "President-To-Be No Tae-u has stated that he would expand the authorities and responsibilities of the cabinet for responsible administration. Therefore I feel a great burden. However, I am determined to put what I have learned and felt into practice to make the cabinet become one that will not leave a blot in history as a bridge between the president and the people." [passage omitted]

[TONG-A ILBO] "The new cabinet has many problems to resolve, such as commodity prices; the imbalance between regions, sectors, and individuals; the Kwangju incident; and the pledges made during the presidential election."

[Yi] "I believe our economy, on a short term basis, should stabilize commodity prices, minimize the impact of trade friction, and properly handle the surplus in the international balance of payments. On a medium- and long-term basis, it should overcome the imbalances created over the course of growth and link the growth

itself with the distribution of welfare. In addition, socially, I feel it necessary to make practical efforts to realize the people's true reconciliation and eradicate provincialism."

We asked about his specific measures to settle the question of commodity prices and the Kwangju incident, which have now become the most urgent tasks for the new cabinet.

[Yi] "I believe the problem of commodity prices was chiefly caused by the increase in currency circulation resulting from external areas, such as surpluses in the international balance of payments, and by the increase in the supply of development funds in the expansion of administrative needs. Accordingly, I think it is necessary to strengthen management over the currency increase. At the same time, we will make administrative efforts to prevent speculation in the realty and stock markets. As far as the Kwangju incident is concerned, I was never, and am never, free from concern and anxiety. Bearing in mind the agony of the unfortunate incident, I will do my best to heal the wounds of the incident. I will give all administrative care so that the sense of isolation of those who suffered from the incident will not deepen." [passage omitted]

[TONG-A ILBO] "The National Assembly will recover its right to probe into government operations and will play the strong role of checking the administrative branch. How will you deal with the ruling and opposition parties?"

[Yi] "I have not thought about dealing with opposition lawmakers. However, I believe I will open-mindedly allow the lawmakers of the ruling and opposition parties to know about the difficulties of the government, show the sincerity of the government, and solicit their cooperation, since President-To-Be No Tae-u, as well, advocates honest government." [passage omitted]

[TONG-A ILBO] "Would you please tell us about your outlook on the press and how you will deal with the press? Also please tell us if you have any desire to allow each ministry to hold briefings for the press more frequently and make it substantial."

[Yi] "I am ready to listen to what the press says, and to humbly accommodate what it says, because public opinion is reflected through the press. Over the course of forming this new cabinet, I talked often with the reporters assigned to the Committee for the Presidential Inauguration. Thus, I have had frequent opportunities to talk with reporters, maybe, because I basically like to meet people. Therefore I will continue to hear from those well-versed reporters for my own information. As long as I have time, I would like to meet reporters frequently, not for government publicity, but to encounter diverse views." [passage omitted]

Two Kims Disagree on Party Power Setup

SK020319 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
2 Mar 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "2-Kim Negotiations"]

[Text] Concerning a closed meeting with Kim Yong-sam Monday night, PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] president Kim Tae-chung yesterday denied a report that he proposed they become co-presidents of a new party and Kim Yong-sam suggested they both resign.

"We two just agreed to simultaneously advance or retreat," Kim told reporters.

Referring to a report that Kim Yong-sam recommended Kim Myong-yun, the RDP's acting president, as president of a new unified opposition party, Kim Tae-chung said, "We did not discuss that matter."

Kim, however, seemed rather annoyed by a Hangyorae Democratic Party call for the withdrawal of the two Kims to facilitate opposition integration.

Merger Delayed for Differences

SK020653 Seoul YONHAP in English
0624 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—The envisaged merger of South Korea's two major opposition parties—the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD)—will be delayed for at least several days due to differing views of the two parties' top leaders on the issue of leadership of the proposed united party.

One practical matter concerning the leadership of the proposed unified opposition party centers on whether the so-called two Kims—Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung—should have an active leadership role as they had in the RDP before the party was divided when Kim Tae-chung and his supporters left the RDP during the presidential election campaign last fall.

The merger of the two parties is widely regarded as a foregone conclusion, especially among members of the two parties who have called for a merger in order to unite all elements of the opposition camp for the seemingly uphill battle against the ruling camp in the approaching parliamentary elections. The opposition has openly blamed its defeat in the Dec. 16 presidential election last year on the two Kims' failure to unite.

The upcoming National Assembly elections are most likely to feature a format of one seat per district, or the so-called small constituency system, so that the opposition can unite its forces and prevent a split in the pro-opposition vote. To achieve such a goal, other groups of political dissidents are airing their intention to join the new party.

The two parties had originally decided to have a joint convention on March 5 for inaugurating the unified party. But the joint convention is expected to be delayed until the latter half of next week due to the disagreement between the two Kims on who should be the leader of the new party.

Kim Yong-sam on Feb. 8 resigned as RDP president in a surprise announcement saying that he hoped his resignation would help bring about a unified opposition. But Kim Tae-chung and his followers were suspicious of his real intention and labeled Kim Yong-sam's resignation as a mere tactic intended to remove Kim Tae-chung from the active leadership of the PPD.

Kim Tae-chung has remained as the PPD's president which has probably led Kim Yong-sam to take the initiative in the political talks with the PPD. The two Kims had a secret meeting last Monday evening and agreed to hold the joint convention on March 10 at the latest.

The two Kims, long-time rivals in the opposition camp, are apparently reluctant to concede the leadership role to each other. Since the two Kims agreed to help merge their parties, they should determine whether they will remain in the new party's active leadership or step into the role of backbenchers.

In the wake of the secret meeting Monday, the two Kims revealed a stark difference in their views in commenting on their talks that day. When asked about their future role in the new party, Kim Yong-sam said, I asked him to step back together to the second rank and let a third person lead the party. However, Kim Tae-chung said, I asked him to work together and lead the election campaigns.

One factor making things worse for the opposition camp is that the opposition cannot at the moment find a third person as a substitute for the two Kims. The opposition parties are deeply factious and their members are still loyal to their respective leaders.

The PPD wants Kim Yong-sam to work with Kim Tae-chung in leading the new party. A recent meeting of PPD leaders adopted a resolution saying that the opposition camp can win the parliamentary elections only when it stands under the joint leadership of the two Kims.

As for Kim Yong-sam, however, returning to active party leadership is likely to provoke a feeling of distrust among the general public in view of his surprise announcement to step down as RDP president. Kim Yong-sam had pledged to remain as a common party member instead of seeking the party presidency.

The PPD proposes that the two Kims be installed as co-presidents of the new party while the RDP counterproposes that they serve as co-advisers and remain away

from the leadership. The PPD members, however, believe that Kim Yong-sam will eventually agree with their proposal if there is proper justification for his return to party leadership.

The focus of attention is now on Kim Yong-sam's decision. If he decides to join the new party's leadership, the merger of the opposition parties will be much easier to realize than expected.

Leadership Issue Hinders Merger

SK020157 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The two major opposition parties will postpone a joint meeting to declare the inauguration of a new unified party until after the special National Assembly session, Which opens today for a seven-day run.

The joint inaugural meeting, originally set for this Saturday, will be delayed to next week.

The delay has become inevitable as an unscheduled meeting between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung Monday night in a Seoul restaurant failed to iron out differences over the role they should play in the new party, opposition sources said.

The two Kims also differed on the type of leadership structure to be adopted in the new party during the meeting.

Kim Yong-sam, de facto leader of the Reunification Democratic Party, advocated installing a third person as the party head while the two Kims take a back seat.

He added that the president can be either from the two parties or from the extra-partisan oppositionists.

On the other hand, Kim Tae-chung favors the idea of the two Kims co-leading the new party at least until the general elections.

Although they could not reach an accord on their role and type of leadership, they agreed to take joint action under which both of them will either share the leadership or take a back seat.

Opposition sources said, however, that there are four options the two Kims can agree to.

The first option is for the two Kims to co-lead the unified party. They second would make Kim Tae-chung president and Kim Yong-sam a permanent advisor.

The third option is for a third figure to assume the presidency with the two Kims becoming permanent advisors.

The last but the most unlikely scenario is for the two Kims to hold no official title in the new party.

Under whatever formula, the new party will remain under the influence of the two Kims, they said.

The two Kims had no choice but to postpone the joint inaugural meeting until after the special National Assembly session because significant numbers of RDP and PPD lawmakers are airing strong opposition over the adoption of the one-lawmaker small constituency system.

The two opposition parties had agreed to table a joint amendment bill on the Parliamentary Election Law featuring the small constituency system by the end of last month to the National Assembly.

But they could not submit the bill expeditiously because the two parties could not produce identical maps of electoral districts.

Significant numbers of lawmakers in the two parties are opposed to the small constituency system as it will lower their chances for re-nomination and reelection in the general elections.

The opposition camp fears that there is a possibility of the small constituency system being vetoed by lawmakers at the House session.

In the meantime, Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy yesterday adopted a resolution that the two Kims must "co-lead" the new unified party at least until after the legislative elections.

"The co-leadership will ensure a great opposition victory and the integrated party can hold a national convention after the general elections to revise the leadership formulas and choose a new leader," PPD spokesman An Tong-son said after the meeting of the decision-making Executive Council.

Power Issues Delay Merger

SK020113 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
2 Mar 88 p 2

["News Analysis" column by Yi Song-yol: "Leadership, Constituency Issues Delay RDP-PPD Merger"]

[Text] Many difficulties are expected in an envisaged merger of the opposition forces as Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung disagree on the pivotal issue of the leadership system of a yet-to-be-formed party.

What kind of leadership system a new unified opposition party would adopt is actually related to when, how and whether the two opposition leaders withdraw to the second line of the opposition leadership.

As the two Kims have yet to reach an accord on the matter, a joint convention of their two parties previously slated for Saturday to inaugurate a new party is expected to be postponed till next week.

Their disagreement came at a secret meeting Monday, in which Kim Yong-sam, who has resigned as president of the Reunification Democratic Party, insisted he and the other Kim bow out to remain just co-advisers and pick a third figure as president of the new opposition party.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, on the other hand, proposed that they become co-presidents of the new party in order to efficiently cope with the upcoming parliamentary election.

Sources said the two Kims know they have to take responsibility in one way or another for their failure to unite last year, which led to an opposition defeat in the Dec. 16 presidential election.

And at the same time, the two Kims want to compensate for their degraded honor and withered opposition by helping to garner a good result in the parliamentary election expected in mid-April.

In this connection, Kim Tae-chung has often said both Kims would stomp across the country together "to help the opposition with the election."

His remarks are construed as implying that the two Kims, at least he himself, would not lose control of the opposition before the general election.

Instead, they are to actively involve themselves in the election on the chance of restoring their previous influence and honor in case the opposition harvests a better-than-expected election result.

A good election result is needed for them to remain influential till after the Seoul Olympic Games slated for September, when President No Tae-u has promised to hold a national referendum to confirm he is the choice of the people.

If they were to succeed in damaging the No government in the referendum, it would be an important stepping stone for them to rise again, they think.

In addition, the two Kims, especially Kim Tae-chung, yearn to have as many opposition figures as possible elected as heads of local autonomy organs, including mayors of larger cities.

A local autonomy system is expected to be implemented after the Games, and the coming parliamentary election, the national referendum and elections of local autonomy organizations are, in a sense, linked altogether for the two Kims.

These prospects are immediately related to Kim Tae-chung's insistent call for a one-seat-per-district parliamentary election format.

Under a small constituency system, Kim and some other oppositionists believe the opposition could inflict damage to the ruling party even though the opposition will also have to fight hard battles.

As hard battles are expected, many opposition, and some of the ruling party lawmakers as well, are voicing their opposition to the single-seat election formula.

On the part of Kim Yong-sam, it seems that he predicts it will be long before, or may be difficult that, the two Kims restore their previous political influence and honor.

Their agreement Feb. 25 on a unified opposition came from their desperate conclusion, and from the popular pressure as well, that the opposition will really decline if it remains fractured.

But even though they are united, the two Kims have to settle several problems. One of them is how to liquidate the deep-rooted factionalism between the two groups, which has been abhorred by many in and out of the opposition.

Another is how to share nominations of candidates for the parliamentary seats, an issue which has already kept many would-be candidates on the alert. Tugs of war and wars of nerves are expected between the two camps surrounding the share of nominations.

Whether and how they produce a fresh and reasonable unified opposition party will be judged by popular votes in the coming parliamentary election.

Dissidents Join Party-Forming

SK010217 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
1 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Dissident groups yesterday dispatched their representatives to the four subcommittees the Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy have set up to select a new name and draft regulations and platforms of a unified opposition party.

A group of dissident figures, led by former National Assemblyman Yi Chun-ho, yesterday decided to scrap their plan to form the "Hangyora" Party and participated in the projected party yesterday.

Choe Chung-ku, a crusader for the urban poor, and Prof. Chang Ul-pyong, will also join the new unified party, along with their dissidents colleagues, retracting their plans to form a new party.

The Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy also yesterday agreed to hold a joint meeting at the Hungsadan building Saturday to declare the inauguration of the new unified opposition party.

Hundreds of delegates from each party will participate in the joint inaugural convention this Saturday to resolve to make the merger and found a new unified party, according to each paroy yesterday.

The name of the new party will be selected from such abbreviations as the "Daehan Minjudang" (Korea Democratic Party), "Tonghap Minjudang" (Integrated Democratic Party), "Woori Minjudang" (Our Democratic Party) and "Shin Minjudang" (New Democratic Party).

In preparation for the joint meeting Saturday, the two major parties also decided to hold separate special conventions at their respective headquarters Thursday to resolve the dissolution of the parties and form independent organs empowered to pursue a merger.

Although the two parties announced their official position on the grand reintegration, there is not total internal consensus in the two parties.

Several RDP and PPD lawmakers yesterday expressed strong opposition over the adoption of the one-lawmaker small constituency because they fear it will lower their chances for renomination and re-election in the upcoming legislative contest.

A minority of RDP lawmakers have even called for delaying the holding of a joint inaugural meeting until the RDP and the PPD reach a consensus on rezoning electoral districts.

The RDP and the PPD had earlier agreed to submit a joint amendment bill on the Parliamentary Election Law calling for the singular consoituceny system by yesterday to the National Assembly.

But they failed to produce a unified bill yesterday and decided to iron out outstanding differences in later meetings.

Chinese Move To Promote Bilateral Trade

Plan To Open Hong Kong Office

SK020741 Seoul YONHAP in English
0729 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Hong Kong, March 2 (YONHAP)—A Chinese trade office to open soon in this British colony will play the role of a new window to iron out the difficulties in China's trade with South Korea and Taiwan stemming from a lack of formal relations, the head of a Chinese delegation said in an interview Tuesday.

Liu Shao-shan, former deputy chairman of the Chinese Commission for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), said there are difficulties in China's trade and investments with South Korea as Beijing's official position does not allow direct contacts with Seoul.

In an interview published by the JINGJI RIBAO (ECONOMIC DAILY) here Tuesday, Liu said the trade office, a representative office of the CCPIT, will not only iron out difficulties but also promote trade with South Korea.

Liu is now leading a Chinese delegation here working to open the trade office.

Liu said the trade office will contact South Korean companies and businessmen registered with Hong Kong authorities, regardless of their links to Seoul, for consultations on trade and investments.

In addition, the trade office will handle the entry visas for South Korean businessmen in accordance with the decisions of the CCPIT in Beijing, he said.

Liu predicted that South Korea's indirect trade with China via Hong Kong will be further promoted after the Chinese trade office opens.

He added, however, that China will continue to ban made in Korea markings on the packages of South Korean products bound for China.

Report on Opening Seoul Office

SK020111 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Paris (YONHAP)—China plans to open a residential trade office in Seoul after the Seoul Olympics, an economic daily published here said Monday, citing experts in Japan and Hong Kong.

LES ECHOS took some examples of the recent expansion of economic relations between South Korea and China.

Among them were the fishing by Korean vessels in Chinese waters, the construction of a chemical plant in China by Korean conglomerate Daewoo and the ongoing negotiations between Kia Motors Co. and Chinese authorities to build an assembly factory in China.

As a result of recent progress in the Korea-China economic ties, more than half of the bilateral trade is conducted directly, the daily said.

The newspaper added that China started direct trade negotiations with South Korea last summer.

The daily revealed that the trade volume between the two countries through Hong Kong last year amounted to \$1,100 million and the total figure added to those made through Japan and Singapore might reach "several billion dollars."

However, the newspaper said that despite such speedy development of economic relations with South Korea, China takes a very cautious attitude in consideration of her relations with the Soviet Union and North Korea.

Meanwhile, LE MONDE reported that China will hold high-level talks with North Korea to ask Pyongyang to accept the establishment of direct economic ties between China and South Korea.

LE MONDE quoted a diplomatic source in Beijing as predicting the move in an article analyzing the remarks by Chinese leader Zhao Ziyang in his recent interview with a Japanese newspaper.

Trade Group Seeks Ways To Ease Friction
SK020305 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 6

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk]

[Excerpts] "It is high time for us to play an active role to correct the trade imbalance in the current account surplus era," said So Chong-ho, newly elected president of the Association of Foreign Trading Agents of Korea (AFTAK).

He said domestic importers have been poorly treated by the government and society due to the decades-long export-oriented policy.

Trading agents should be utilized most by the government to import raw materials cheaply and those commodities badly needed by the nation as most of the domestic markets have opened wide for foreign commodities, the ninth AFTAK president said.

"Our members will do our best to ease trade friction with the United States and other advanced countries," So emphasized.

He said the association will dispatch trade missions to the United States and European countries this year.

The association will also establish a special trade department to help its 4,000-member agents arrange direct trade between Korean businesses and those of East European Communist countries, the 51-year-old president said.

"Since most East European nations have government-controlled trading systems, our trading agents are studying ways to make the association the only channel for trade between our country and East bloc nations," he explained.

But, "first of all, I will make double efforts to protect the rights and interests of member trading agents. Member firms would be made familiar with the association through direct favor," said So, who served as vice president for two terms since 1982.

He revealed that a business division for member firms will be established soon. [passages omitted]

So also expressed his hope that a consultation body between his organization and the government will be set up to promote exchange of information on foreign markets and opinions conducive to the government.

He took as an example that major U.S. grain traders can be used as a pressure group to ease trade disputes with the U.S. government as Korea is one of their largest customer. [passage omitted]

Businesses To Start Overseas Plants
SK020243 Seoul YONHAP in English
0226 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—In search of cheaper labor and a way to avoid mounting protectionism, South Korean makers of electronic goods and parts are establishing manufacturing footholds in Mexico, India and China.

Business sources here said Wednesday that Samsung, South Korea's largest electronic goods maker, will build a plant in northern Mexico near the U.S. border by September this year to produce sashes for its color television sets.

Samsung has already secured a site for the plant, in which it will invest 9 million U.S. dollars to manufacture 400,000 sets a year, according to the sources. Samsung will send a task force to Mexico for the construction of the plant which begins in March.

The Korean company plans to supply the sash parts made in Mexico to its color TV assembly plant in the United States and become the first Korean electronic company to utilize what is called the Maquila Program, a manufacturing mother lode chiefly aiming at Mexico's vast, low-cost labor supply for the business operation. Samsung will also manufacture other electronic parts in the plant.

Gold Star, Samsung's rival electronic goods manufacturer, is also considering the establishment of a manufacturing foothold aimed at the U.S. market.

Jung Poong [Chung Poong] Products Co. has concluded a draft contract with India's Universal Electronics to build an assembly line for such electronic parts as volume switches in India.

The two companies will sign a final contract in March for the 4-million-dollar joint venture to produce 16 million electronic parts a year.

Beginning in October this year, the joint venture will import parts from Jung Poong for assembly and sale in India. Jung Poong is to obtain three percent of the domestic turnover in India as well as know-how charges from universal electronics.

In addition, Jung Poong is also promoting a contract to build an electronic parts plant in China. The contract is expected to be concluded in the second quarter of this year, the sources said.

Daeshin Chonyon, a specialized manufacturer of transformers and coils, plans to build a manufacturing plant in the suburbs of Bombay, India, in a joint venture with an Indian firm for sale of the products on India's domestic markets as well as for export to European nations.

DJP, Government Discuss Trade, Other Issues
SK010224 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
1 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party yesterday held their first consultation meeting since the inauguration of the new government, dealing with various pending issues including the import of American beef, medical insurance policies in rural areas and social order.

At the "get-acquainted" meeting, Deputy Premier-EPB [Economic Planning] Minister Na Ung-pae said some newspaper reports that U.S. beef will be imported from May are not "correct."

"It will take some time before the government concludes the matter because negotiation between Seoul and Washington is still under way," Na explained.

Party secretary general Sim Myong-po urged the government to take into account matters that concern farmers and other interested groups, given the implications of beef imports to cattle raisers.

Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries Minister Yun Kun-hwan said the government will deal with the beef imports "in a cautious manner," noting that currently an estimated one million farmers are raising cows nationwide.

Concerning the implementation of medical insurance in rural areas, Rep. Nam Chae-hui, head of the party's policymaking body, asked the government to make a greater financial contribution, taking a dim view of its full implementation during this year.

EPB Minister Na said that the matter is closely related to the budget as well as full-scale implementation of medical insurance in urban areas, assuring that the government will examine the matter "comprehensively" before reaching a conclusion.

In a dig at the recent upsurge of crimes, the participating party members urged the government to work out measures to restore social order.

Home Minister Yi Sang-hui said reinforcement of police manpower and backing of their financial status are necessary, and that such incentives will help raise their morale.

Meanwhile, party chairman Chae Mun-sik told the meeting the party will handle any party matters "resolutely" by itself so that they will not be "burden" to the new government.

Joint Insurance Ventures Formula To Be Setup
SK020235 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] The Korean government has decided to seek the early establishment of domestic life insurance firms whose main business operations would be based in Seoul in an effort to protect domestic market from the excessive entry of U.S. life insurance businesses, sources at the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

The government, however, has decided to prohibit the 15 largest business groups from entering the life insurance market under the same guideline in which the government forbids them from seeking joint ventures with U.S. business firms in the life insurance sector.

The Finance Ministry will reportedly map out some formulas for establishing U.S.-Korea joint life insurance firms in Seoul soon after the ministry finalizes negotiations with Washington on matters concerning the U.S. firms' expansion of their businesses in Korea.

Sources at the ministry said the decision to accelerate the establishment of domestic Seoul-based life insurance firms was intended to lessen interest of the domestic business groups in seeking joint ventures with U.S. firms.

The Finance Ministry is expected to set the capital ceiling for the new domestic life insurance firms at 10 billion won compared with 5 billion won for joint life insurance firms or those in provincial cities.

Education Ministry To Restrict Gatherings
SK020253 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] The Education Ministry has instructed schools at all levels not to allow students to be mobilized for social and public events which have nothing to do with education.

Even if the mobilization is deemed advisable, schools should obtain in advance approval from the education office under whose jurisdiction they find themselves.

Ministry officials said the ministry does not want to see students involved in social programs at the expense of their school hours.

And therefore, school authorities should first think of students when requested to mobilize students for various events.

The ministry also instructed schools not to comply with such requests if they are not endorsed by education offices.

Such a move is to stave off the repetition of rampant student mobilization of the past in a new era with the inauguration of President No Tae-u.

According to a survey by the Education Ministry, there were a total of 40 cases of student mobilization at a

certain school in 1986. Of them, 58 percent turned out to have no educational purpose.

At the same time, the ministry is at work now trimming down on various reports which school authorities are required to submit periodically so that they may concern themselves more with teaching and educating students.

The ministry admitted that there are at present too many administrative reports which teachers have to make, which affects the performance of their fundamental duty of educating students.

Cambodia

Koy Buntha Greets GDR Minister on Army Day

BK020553 Phnom Penh SPK in French

0432 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 2 Mar (SPK)—PRK Defense Minister Koy Buntha addressed a message of warm congratulations to his GDR counterpart, Heinz Kessler, on the 32d anniversary of the founding of the GDR National Army.

The message says:

"We highly appreciate the revolutionary gains of the GDR National Army during the past 32 years under the clear-sighted leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) in defending and building the country and socialism."

"On this occasion, we wish you and combatants of the GDR National Army good health and new successes."

"May the relations of solidarity, friendship, and all-round cooperation between the people and armies of our two countries further develop and consolidate."

Briefs

Soviet Solidarity Committee

Phnom Penh, 2 Mar (SPK)—A delegation of the Soviet Committee for Support to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos arrived in Phnom Penh on Tuesday [1 March] for an official friendship visit to Cambodia. The delegation leader is General (Ret.) L. Stenyev, vice chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Afro-Asian People. [Text] *[Phnom Penh SPK in French 0419 GMT 2 Mar 88 BK]*

Laos

Joint Military Commission Reports Activities

BK021146 Vientiane KPL in English

0904 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 2 (KPL)—Work of the Lao-Thai joint military commission carried out in the last 11 days along border between Boten District, Lao Sayaboury Province and Chat Trakan District, Thai Phitsanulok Province is going well since the cease-fire came into effect reported a local source.

At a meeting held on February 29 in the Lao Muang Phe hamlet the commissions of the two countries reported the activities done after the cease-fire namely the withdrawal of their respective armed [forces] 3 km away from their original positions at the time of the cease-fire, and the removal of mines and dead bodies.

So far, 21 Thai and 3 Lao bodies were recovered and handed back to each other. Four more bodies, expected to be found at the Hills 1184 and 1370, are to be recovered soon.

In order to make sure that the agreement is strictly carried out, the joint military commission led by Lao Colonel Somboun Sisavat and Thai Colonel Thawisak Khetsali flew over and inspected the Hill 1146 and other points by helicopter where previously there were armed confrontations.

Informing Lao and Thai correspondents the heads of Lao and Thai military commissions said that their joint operation was successfully carried out and that the two sides, with the spirit of sincerity, equality and neighbourliness, have strived to do their best to settle all issues. They also said that the commissions would continue to work hard in order to pave the way for the government of the two countries to settle all pending problems by peaceful means.

Assessment Meeting Held

BK020405 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao

0000 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Yesterday morning, the Joint Lao-Thai Military Commission [JLTMC] held a meeting to review the initial successes of the joint execution of work between the two sides at Ban Muang Phe village, Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. At the meeting, Colonel Somboun Sisavat, head of the Lao military team, and Col Thawisak Khetsali, head of the Thai military team, took turns in reviewing the initial outcome of the joint execution of work between the two sides which was carried out together since 19 February after the cease-fire went into effect. The review report said: The JLTMC has held several meetings alternately in Laos' Muang Phe village and Thailand's Muang Phrae village. The two sides held consultations and signed a memorandum on the rights, duties, scope of organization, and working patterns of the JLTMC. It appointed mobile joint military teams and accompanied them to inspect the observance of the cease-fire in the areas where the fighting previously occurred. It pinpointed the former positions and the line of contact from which the armed forces of the two sides must withdraw 3 km. It inspected the separation of forces by the two sides, the removal of military equipment and weapons, the removal of landmines of all types, and the retrieval of bodies of soldiers killed.

With regard to the successes in the joint execution of work by the JLTMC, Col Somboun Sisavat, speaking on behalf of the JLTMC, assessed the outcome of work as follows:

[Begin recording] After carrying out its inspection duties, the JLTMC has agreed that the Lao and Thai Armed Forces have strictly and completely fulfilled the cease-fire agreement signed by the military delegations of the

LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand on 17 February 1988. A joint memorandum was signed by the two sides to this effect. This outcome clearly shows that the brotherly relations of friendship and common interests of the peoples and armed forces of the two countries—Laos and Thailand [have been preserved] on the basis of mutual understanding. The JLTMC has managed to settle conflicts between the two countries through negotiations and reasonable political means. On the basis of this spirit, the JLTMC continued to actively carry out its activities in an efficient manner, aimed at inspecting the observance of the cease-fire and the separation of forces, to see to it that the two sides totally cease all movements within the area separating the armed forces of the two sides which have moved back 3 km from the former line of contact as stipulated in the cease-fire agreement so as to create conditions for the governmental delegations of the two countries—Laos and Thailand—to hold negotiations to settle the border problem in this area through political means. The JLTMC is determined to see to it that the cease-fire agreement signed by the military delegations of the two sides in Bangkok on 17 February is implemented until the delegations of the governments of the two countries successfully hold negotiations to settle the border problem in this area as mentioned at the joint press conference held by the LPDR military delegation headed by General Sisavat Keobounphan and the military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand headed by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut in Vientiane on 24 February 1988. [end recording]

After the two sides took turns reading the review report on the joint execution of work by the JLTMC, the heads of the military teams of the two sides of the JLTMC signed a memorandum on the joint execution of work in the presence of members of the Administrative Committee and the Military Command of Boten District and the administration of Na Bonoi canton in Laos, and the district chiefs of Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok Province and of Na Hao District of Loei Province in Thailand as well as representatives of Lao and Thai peoples residing on both sides of the Nam Heuang River which is the Lao-Thai border of friendship. The local residents of Na Bonoi canton subsequently held a blessing ceremony in honor of the JLTMC for its virtues and accomplishment in jointly carrying out work together.

EEC Representative Presents Credentials
BK021142 Vientiane KPL in English
0917 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 2 (KPL)—The non-residential head of the EEC for Southeast Asia Albert Maes yesterday presented a letter of credentials to the Lao Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit.

The host and the guest discussed matters on the short and long term cooperation between the EEC and the Lao PDR.

P. Vongvichit seized the opportunity to thank the EEC for its economic assistance to the socialist construction in the Lao PDR. He wished A. Maes success in the fulfilment of his mission here for the interests of the two sides.

Vigilance Against 'Reactionaries' Urged
BK011250 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Editorial: "Maintaining Vigilance at All Times Is an Everyday Responsibility of the Armed Forces"]

[Text] At present, reactionaries and counterrevolutionaries in Indochina in general and in Laos in particular are very resentful of Lao achievements in switching from a monarchy to the people's democratic republic system and in changing a war situation to one of peace. They are very surprised by the revolutionary fruits that our Army and people have attained. The change in the social system and the organization of a new administration under the LPRP's leadership is considered a thorn piercing the hearts of those counterrevolutionaries.

Over the past 12 years, the enemies of our Lao nation and revolution have shown their opposition to our LPDR in many different forms. First, they have striven to carry out deceitful propaganda that distorts the true situation in our country; slanders the correct line and policy of our party and government; sows division between the administration and people, between cadres and combatants, between lower and higher echelons, and between the Army and people; and disrupts the solidarity between Laos and the two fraternal countries of Vietnam and Cambodia and between Laos and the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. The slanderous fabrications have been made regularly through newspaper, radio, and television services.

Simultaneously, they have sent spies and ill-intentioned elements to infiltrate Laos and create disturbances among the people through various acts such as plundering passenger buses, firing into the sky, and throwing explosives where there are no patrols or where we lack vigilance. Although those cases are not dangerous and cause no heavy loss of life and property to our nation and people, they disrupt tranquillity and social order as well as the peaceful and joyous atmosphere of our people in earning a living and building the country. It is noteworthy that those ill-intentioned elements have become even more resentful of the present Lao-Thai coordination in working together to improve and normalize relations and to completely end all military acts against each other. They have sought means to spoil that atmosphere. Their intention is to nourish and permanently maintain the tense situation in relations between Laos and Thailand.

To defend the revolutionary gains as well as maintain and fruitfully develop time-honored Lao-Thai relations on the basis of the joint Lao-Thai statements signed by

the two countries in 1979, and to guarantee implementation of the protocol signed by Lao and Thai high-level military delegations in Bangkok on 17 February 1988 for a cease-fire, separation of troops, and turning the Lao-Thai border into a border of peace and making the friendship between the fraternal Lao and Thai peoples last forever, it is necessary under the present circumstances for our Armed Forces throughout the country to heighten their vigilance to crush all acts of those reactionaries and ill-intentioned elements who seek to sabotage our nation, our revolutionary gains, and Lao-Thai relations.

How to heighten vigilance: The maintenance of vigilance is shown through expressions of a high sense of revolutionary awareness; implementation of various resolutions and instructions; and strict observance of the rules, regulations, and discipline of the Army and of units. To maintain vigilance, one must keep military information secret and seek information about subversive and sabotage activities of the enemies, both in peace and wartime. Soldiers must maintain a sense of vigilance at all times. They must carry out all activities with a sense of awareness.

Our Armed Forces learned a great lesson on maintaining a high revolutionary vigilance at all times during the past war of national salvation. Now, our country enjoys peace. But, the enemies of our nation and revolution have not yet been completely eliminated. Therefore, the more we enjoy peace, the higher the vigilance and sense of awareness we must maintain in carrying out tasks. The maintenance of vigilance is demonstrated through actual deeds in an active implementation of ideological work. It can also be seen through political, military, and specialized training, a profound understanding of the situation, a quick response to an event and a change in the new stage of revolution, a clear understanding of new schemes and tricks of the enemies, and a clear distinguishing of friends from foes. The maintenance of soldiers' vigilance can also be seen by their acts of keeping, protecting, using, and regularly taking care of weapons; a timely response to orders in all cases; a sense of responsibility to patrol camps and trenches and protect public vehicles and other property; and a spirit of practicing thrift to keep necessary items for future use.

The Armed Forces serve as a proletarian dictatorial tool to defend the country and protect the people's property. They are regarded as the thorny forces for counterrevolutionaries and reactionaries. The counterrevolutionaries have always intended to destroy our Armed Forces. Therefore, whenever we lack vigilance and fitness, the counterrevolutionaries will be able to easily sabotage our country, our people, and ourselves. For this reason, our Armed Forces must always maintain a high vigilance and take an offensive in all spheres to seek information about and check all counterrevolutionary subversion and sabotage in a timely manner. Only by always heightening vigilance can we successfully smash all subversion and

sabotage by ill-intentioned elements creating disturbances in our country as well as all schemes to undermine Lao-Thai relations in order to securely safeguard peace, friendship, and stability in this region.

Briefs

Olympic Committee Meeting

Vientiane, March 1 (KPL)—The Lao National Olympic Committee [LNOC] on February 29 held a session here to review its last year's activities and work out the 1988 programme. The session, chaired by Singkapo Sikhotchounnamali, president of the LNOC, was attended by representatives of seven federations of sports associations. According to the plan, the LNOC is to send its athletes to take part in the 24th Olympic games scheduled to be held in Seoul. The programme also anticipates to promote sports activities to salute domestic and international events in 1988 as well as to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the LNOC and the federation of sports associations (1978-1988). [Text] [Vientiane KPL English 0907 GMT 1 Mar 88 BK]

Philippines

Commission Confirms Ramos Appointment

BK021204 Quezon City RPN 9 Television Network in English 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The Commission on Appointments this morning approved the nominations of Fidel Ramos as defense secretary and Patricia Santo Thomas as Civil Service Commission chairman. In an executive session presided over by Senate President Javito Salonga, all the commission members, except Senator Leticia Shahani, voted for Ramos' confirmation. As for the confirmation of Santo Thomas, all the members, except for Senator Ernesto Maceda, voted in her favor. Maceda explained that his negative vote was based on the failure of Santo Thomas to answer several questions during confirmation hearings.

The defense committee of the Commission on Appointments chaired by Senator Mamintal Tamano, failed anew this morning to recommend to the Commission on Appointments the confirmation of General Renato de Villa as Armed Forces chief. Several committee members called for more clarifications on De Villa's appointment since he is due to retire next month. The committee had to hold a closed-door session to resolve several issues on De Villa's nomination. [passage omitted]

Aquino Sees No Need To Confirm De Villa

HK021151 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The president said that the appointment of General Renato de Villa as AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff does not need the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments.

[Begin Aquino recording, in English] I do not believe that being chief of staff requires confirmation. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

De Villa on Curbing NPA Activities

HK020844 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The Communist Party will not succeed in its bid to take over the government and grab state power. This was the assertion of AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa in response to a communist threat to grab power through violent means by 1990 in accordance with its 6-year plan.

According to De Villa, the military has ready plans and forces to deal with the communists, although he admitted that the insurgency was growing, due to increased membership as well as local and foreign support.

De Villa said that, like Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, he believes that it is necessary first to destroy the communist movement's united front, the National Democratic Front, which spreads propaganda to undermine the government's credibility. I believe that we can defeat the NPA force once their political activities are fully contained, said De Villa. To do so, it is imperative to take hold of the 41,000 barangays not yet affected by the NPA in the country so that they will not have a chance to infiltrate these places. At the same time, De Villa declared that the military is ready to engage in combat operations against the NPA. The government's civil sector should also help in suppressing the NPA's political activities, such as its agitation propaganda and organization of the people.

De Villa also explained that rebels can be defeated if their forces are divided. At present, the NPA forces are estimated to be 25,000 men strong.

For Radio Veritas and the stations of the Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters, this is Rey Rodriguez reporting from Camp Aguinaldo.

Ramos Vows To Resolve Insurgency Issue

HK021211 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Secretary of Defense Fidel Ramos held a press conference this afternoon, in which he announced that the first item on his agenda was the solution of the insurgency problem.

Ramos made that statement in a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo, following confirmation of his nomination as secretary of defense by the Commission on Appointments. Ramos said he would ensure that the communist threat be crushed with assistance from all sectors of society, including various government and nongovernmental agencies.

The secretary of defense also announced the need to maintain peace and order in the country to achieve full economic recovery. Let us listen to the secretary of defense, Fidel V. Ramos.

[Begin recording in English] Like I have said to all of you, and especially to our people, that I shall exert my full efforts and my capabilities to do this job well, particularly with regards the maintenance of our stability, and to help improve the stability situation, to work for more effective peace and order and counterinsurgency campaign, in coordination with other agencies of the government as well as the concerned citizenry. [end recording]

You have just heard the secretary of defense, Fidel V. Ramos. From Camp Aguinaldo, this is Jonathan Cristobal reporting.

Military Frees 73 Barangays From NPA Control

HK020932 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0900 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The Constabulary announced today that as of the end of January, the military has freed 73 barangays in Pangasinan from NPA control.

Pangasinan PC-INP Commander Romeo Odi said that the barangays were among the 159 places in Pangasinan allegedly under the influence and control of the NPA rebels for several years. The military launched consecutive attacks in these barangays that resulted in the defeat of the NPA.

Odi stressed that the military had launched operations against the NPA rebels in 33 other barangays in February.

Ramos Orders Probe of MNLF Leader's Ambush

HK021154 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today ordered AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief Renato De Villa to conduct a thorough investigation of the ambush of a former top MNLF official in Zamboanga City last Saturday night.

Dambong Sali, former chief of the MNLF's military arm, Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland] Army, was seriously wounded in the ambush. Sali was in the process of negotiating with the government, through Region 9's regional executive council, on reconciliation and on development projects in Mindanao when the ambush took place. Sali's driver, Nader Jalani, was killed in the incident.

Ramos said that once the murder suspects are identified, they should be immediately arrested and charged in court, based on the evidence gathered against them.

Sali is presently undergoing medical treatment at the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City.

[Begin Ramos recording in English] [Passage indistinct] Now, I have ordered that this matter be investigated very thoroughly by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, unhindered by anybody else, unless those who would want to get into the picture, so that we can find out the perpetrators behind the ambush in which a driver was killed.

In any case, through the intervention of Secretary Bengzon, chairman of the Peace Commission, and our own people in the department and of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Dambong Sali has been evacuated to the military hospital. He is now being well attended to. We hope that the perpetrators of this incident can be apprehended as quickly as possible. Those are the instructions I gave this afternoon. [end recording]

That was Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos.

Manglapus 'Optimistic' on MNLF Bid Failure
HK020707 Hong Kong AFP in English 0625 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 2 (AFP)—The Philippines said it was optimistic that the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would turn down a membership request by the Moslem separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told newsmen here Wednesday after leaving a cabinet meeting that Manila was "optimistic that the side of the Philippine government will be appreciated by the OIC."

He cited the visit of a team of Philippine congressmen led by House Speaker Ramon Mitra to Saudi Arabia last month during which they met OIC General Secretary Syed Shariffudin Pirzada.

Mr. Manglapus said the mere fact that Mr. Mitra was able to meet the general secretary of the 46-member group was "an achievement."

The MNLF is seeking full membership in the OIC to allow it to receive overt support and assistance from Islamic nations in its bid to set up a separate state in the southern Philippines.

The membership request is expected to be taken up at an OIC summit later this month in Amman.

Islamic Body's Views Toward MNLF Discussed
HK021033 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 2 Mar 88 pp 1, 7

["Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "OIC Ambivalent on MNLF Bid for membership"]

[Text] Today or tomorrow, the quadripartite committee of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] meets in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to consider the application of the Moro National Liberation Front for full membership in the OIC.

The meeting is pivotal because the committee may decide whether to recommend full membership for the MNLF at the OIC meeting on Jan. 21/25 [as published] in Amman, Jordan. The committee, whose members are Libya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Somali, monitored the ceasefire of the Muslim war and the implementation of the 1976 Tripoli agreement, which remains the framework for the political settlement of the Muslim conflict in Mindanao.

The MNLF leader, Nur Misuari, arrived in Jeddah yesterday to press his lobby for full membership (at present the MNLF has observer status in the OIC). Mr Misuari's persistent lobby raises the question whether the Philippine government, in trying to block full membership, has matched the diplomatic initiative of Mr Misuari amongst the OIC members.

As Speaker Ramon Mitra, who recently returned from a mission to Saudi Arabia to try to win support for the Philippines, conceded in a press conference yesterday, membership status for the MNLF has explosive potential for the renewal of armed conflict in Mindanao fueled by the MNLF's separatist ambitions.

The Jeddah meeting raises to the critical stage the diplomatic war over the MNLF's campaign to win full membership which will open the way for it to declare a Morobangsa state in the Mindanao-Sulu region. In the diplomatic contest, the MNLF has apparently won many propaganda points.

While the MNLF appears to have the initiative in the propaganda war, it is not certain whether the OIC will accord it full membership. Since the deadlock of the peace talks between the Government and the MNLF last year, Mr Misuari has gone on full diplomatic offensive, operating from his base in Jeddah in a continuing lobby for full membership.

The emphasis by the MNLF on the diplomatic initiative helps explain why there has been a lull in the armed activity of the MNLF in Mindanao and Sulu. The shift of the MNLF's activity in favor of diplomatic means marked the externalization of the Mindanao problem which has now moved into the arena of the OIC.

Mr Misuari's lobby has intensified as the Amman conference approaches, and this intensification contrasts with the defensive posture taken by the Aquino government. The Government has been slow in countering the Misuari moves.

The Mitra mission to Saudi Arabia, the diplomatic lobby on Muslim ambassadors in Manila, and the Tawi-Tawi initiative taken by President Aquino who unveiled last week a P1 billion economic development package for Mindanao came a bit too close to the Amman conference. The Philippine embassy in Riyadh has been slow footed in replying to the MNLF's use of the Middle East press in publishing alleged breaches by the government in implementing provisions of the Tripoli agreement granting autonomy to the region.

Despite the resident lobby by Mr Misuari, there remains a strong stream of opinion in the OIC that restrains it from promoting civil turmoil in countries with Muslim populations or separatism. This opinion has been expressed in several OIC declarations.

The anchor of this opinion is Saudi Arabia around which moderate OIC members are grouped. This is the obstacle which the MNLF has to overcome and this explains why the Philippines is focusing its strategy in keeping Riyadh to its side.

Mr Misuari plans to fly to Malaysia after the Jeddah meeting to try to win support for its membership bid. Malaysia and Indonesia, which are the Philippines' partners in ASEAN, are pivotal members of OIC, as far as the MNLF bid is concerned. The resumption of turbulence in the South over Muslim separatism will have unsettling impact on Malaysia and Indonesia. Both Indonesia and Malaysia have endemic separatist movements. The Malaysian state of Sabah is still trying to cope with the problems raised by the large number of Filipino Muslim refugees who fled there during the Muslim war of the 1970s.

In a belated reaction, the Philippine government has been considering a number of initiatives, including a visit by President Aquino to King Fahd in Riyadh. Whether this move could unangle the stalemate over the disputed provisions of the Tripoli Agreement is problematic.

One recent proposal is for the Philippines to put to the OIC a plan for the revision of the Tripoli agreement, taking into account new realities in the country. It has been argued, for example, that the Aquino Government has demonstrated concrete steps to improve the economy of the South and that it is not repressive in contrast to the Marcos Government. This conciliatory climate and the new democratic environment, it is further argued, favor the search for a compromise on autonomy.

It is also argued that the Tripoli Agreement requires revision because of the new Constitution which provides mechanisms for autonomy that now appear incompatible with the provisions of the Tripoli Agreement.

Maybe this is not the best formula to persuade the OIC to defer a decision to grant full membership. But similar initiatives could at least give the OIC something to consider as an alternative to full membership with its volatile potential for armed conflict the OIC wants to avoid.

Cabinet Defends Government Reorganization

*HK020829 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] The administration defended its ongoing reorganization of various government agencies. Meanwhile, a cabinet secretary revealed that he has received death threats from communists as a result of the said reorganization.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno outlined the cabinet's position in response to a Senate resolution urging President Aquino to suspend the government revamp. The resolution authored by Senators Santanina Rasul and Edgardo Angara calls for the legislature to strengthen guidelines to protect deserving civil service employees. Secretary Benigno did not identify the cabinet secretary who received the death threats, but announced that some dismissed employees may have had links with the rebels.

Meanwhile, President Aquino agreed to meet with Colonels Rolando Abadilla and Rodolfo Aguinaldo at the national convention of elected local government executives on Friday. The president will be the guest of honor at the said conference.

According to Press Secretary Benigno, the president hopes her decision would alleviate political tension.

[Begin Benigno recording in English] The highlights of this morning's 2-hour cabinet meeting: First, the Cabinet members reacted rather sharply to the current debates and discussions on the issue of government reorganization, particularly the proposal of Senator Rasul to temporarily stop the reorganization program of all the departments. The consensus of all cabinet secretaries is that all of them had invested so much blood, so much tears and work to reorganize departments and over a long and arduous period of time. They also stressed that the reorganization substantially strengthened the performance capability of their departments, although of course it was unfortunate that in the process, some personnel had to be laid off. A cabinet member whom we cannot identify also complained that some of the dismissed employees may have had links with the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA because he received death threats from the communists regarding having laid off employees.

The cabinet members also stressed that since they were responsible and accountable for their departments' performance, they should be given all the leeway to maximize efficiency with the least interference from anybody.

President Corazon Aquino came to the defense of her Cabinet secretaries by saying: The reorganization was not intended to dismiss people in the government but rather to streamline and achieve administration efficiency in the different departments.

The cabinet next discussed the matter of such officials as Colonel Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Colonel Rolando Abadilla whose performance in the last elections shouldn't have won by such margins as anywhere from 16,000 to 20,000 votes. At any rate, that was what the counting showed so far. Both have not yet been proclaimed.

Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos notified the president, and, of course the cabinet, that to defuse tension, he had invited Colonels Aguinaldo and Abadilla to attend Friday's meeting of elected governors and mayors as observers. Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos seconded Secretary Santos' move and said: I strongly recommend that to defuse tension, we might as well be present so that they can get in on the first lessons and systems to be discussed in Friday's gathering.

President Aquino agreed with Secretary Santos' move but instructed him to officially inform the Comelec of his action, so we shall not be seen as going against the Comelec. Since all of them are supposed to come here, we cannot allow any area not to be represented, the president said. [end recording]

Abadilla Denied Petition To Hold Office

*HK020249 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 1 Mar 88*

[Text] The Department of Justice has ruled that Ilocos Norte Vice Governor Rolando Abadilla cannot perform his duties as vice governor at his place of detention. The ruling was handed down in response to a petition by Abadilla's lawyer Oliver Lozano asking whether Abadilla's temporary release could be legally authorized and whether he would be allowed to hold office as vice governor in Fort Bonifacio where he is detained. Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordenez said Abadilla has been charged in connection with his involvement in the January 27, 1987 GMA Channel 7 takeover, and the April 18, 1987 mutiny inside Fort Bonifacio. Ordenez said his detention in the military camp has been declared legal by the Supreme Court, and therefore the petition for Habeas Corpus is dismissed for lack of merit. On the question of whether Abadilla could be allowed to hold office in his place of detention, the Justice secretary referred to the provisions of the local government code which states that all elected and appointed provincial officials shall hold office in their provincial capitals.

Officials Divided on Issue of Marcos Return

*BK020114 Manila PNA in English 0056 GMT
2 Mar 88*

[Text] Manila March 1 (PNA/OANA)—Senior officials are split on whether or not to allow ousted President Ferdinand Marcos to return to the Philippines from his two-year forced exile in Hawaii.

The split surfaced following revelations that two of President Corazon Aquino's relatives—Congressmen Francisco Sumulong and Egidio Tanjuatco—met secretly with Marcos in Honolulu last month.

In their press conference Monday, the two confirmed having met Marcos and discussed with him about his possible return to the Philippines.

The meeting, they said, was asked by the former ruler himself and arranged by his trusted political leaders who had been working for his return.

Although the meeting was unofficial, they said, it had the blessings of Mrs. Aquino who was earlier quoted as saying that "if we can listen and see other people, why cannot we listen to him (Marcos)."

Sumulong said he favored Marcos' return on condition that he swear allegiance to the Aquino government and settle the ill-gotten wealth charges filed against him.

The 66-year-old deposed strongman, he said, wanted to come home because of his deteriorating health and offered to return a portion of his "hidden wealth."

Tanjuatco said Marcos pledged he would help the Aquino government in its political normalization process if allowed to come back.

But, he said, certain conditions might be imposed by the Aquino government such as an assurance that he would not destabilize the present government.

"Given proper response that will be received by the government, he may be eventually allowed to return to the country," Tanjuatco added.

While Aquino's relatives appeared favorable to Marcos' return, others opposed.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel said he would lead a campaign in Congress to block any Marcos' homecoming.

"Marcos' presence alone will be a source of instability in this country," he said.

He said he foresees possible demonstrations by Marcos' followers that will agitate for his reassumption of power.

Senator Teofisto Guingona said "the country is still in a transition period and does not warrant yet the return of Marcos at this point in time."

On the other hand, two senators welcome Marcos return.

Senator Neptali Gonzales said the initiative shown by Marcos for talks with the Aquino administration is a clear indication that the exiled strongman "was paving the way and making the situation also easy for this government to normalize the political condition."

"I think in due time, he will be allowed to return," he added.

Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said he would not oppose Marcos' return, saying the former president "is a Filipino and the Philippines is his homeland."

Enrile led the four-day civilian backed military revolt in February 1986 that ousted Marcos and installed Aquino as the country's seventh president.

Parties To Merge Under Administration

HK020311 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Majority members of the lower house voted at a caucus yesterday [2 March] to merge their political parties into one dominant organization to support President Aquino. Their leaders regrouped later to draw up a set of principles and to draw up the mechanics for the creation of a new administration party at a meeting at the Navotas residence of Representative Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

Aquino Opposes Postponing Presidential Poll

HK010537 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0200 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] President Aquino says she is opposed to any plans to postpone the presidential election scheduled to be held in 1992 or to extend her term of office, as is being suggested by some sectors. The president said that the people know the election is scheduled for 1992, therefore it should be held at that time. The president suggested that any other elections held in the same year could be staggered to different dates so that voters would not have difficulty writing down the names of numerous candidates.

Local and national elections are scheduled to be held in 1992, during which candidates for president, vice president, senator, congressman, governor, vice governor, mayor, and other local officials will run. President Aquino's term of office ends in 1992.

Plans To Visit Depressed Areas

HK011257 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1100 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] President Aquino today announced that she would visit more of the country's depressed areas to convince the people of the government's intention to carry on with development projects. This was announced to newsmen by press secretary Teodoro Benigno following the president's meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Affairs Richard Armitage at Malacanang.

According to Benigno, the president stated that it was imperative that the people feel they are part of the government. Benigno added that the president recalled her visit to Tawitawi which, according to her, bore excellent results.

President Aquino's Weekly Radio Program

[Slantlines denote passages in English]

HK290625 [Editorial Report] Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog at 1300 GMT on 28 February carries a 50-minute live program entitled "Magtanong sa Pangulo" ["Ask the President"], in which President Corazon Aquino answers listeners' questions, most of which are phoned in while others are relayed by a moderator.

The program begins with a replay of Aquino's entire speech given on her arrival at Zamboanga City on 26 February.

The moderator reads a comment from a caller saying: /"People, even the newspapers, are worried about the so-called emergency measures being asked of you by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] in their fight against the insurgents./ What do you think is the reason behind this proposal?" The president replies: "Perhaps the military wants increased aid for their fight against the insurgents. Now, because our government is a democratic one, we must first of all approach Congress so that they will be the ones to help by setting up laws which they believe can help not just the Armed Forces but also the entire nation. As I have always said, I am the president of all Filipinos, not only of the military and those working in the government. I am the president of all Filipino citizens; therefore, on the question of solving problems, we must carefully think and study what is good for all the people, not just one sector."

The moderator says there are some queries about the status of renegade soldiers, among them Gregorio Honasan. Callers are asking if there are any new developments on this issue. Aquino says: /"Well, as I have always said, they will have to face the military court. We have had some surrender feelers but I think it is better if I do not comment on that now. We have received not only feelers, but I think there is a very urgent message

that they would like to surrender./ Well, they have asked for certain terms, but I have said we cannot grant any provisions. /If they want to surrender, they surrender; and perhaps, later on, their surrendering can be taken as a mitigating circumstance in the matter of the handing out of penalties by the military court."/

A student from the Visayas asks what the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG] has done with assets recovered from the Marcoses, as well as with the government's nonperforming assets. The president replies: /"All the sequestered assets and properties are now the subject of adjudication by the Sandiganbayan [antigraft court], where the PCGG has filed 33 civil cases against 315 defendants. These assets cannot be disposed of until such time that the Sandiganbayan has laid down its decision. Please take note that these legal processes have to be undertaken to give the affected persons the due process guaranteed by our Constitution. As to the government's nonperforming assets, these are up for privatization or disposition. Privatization plans for some have already been completed, while others have been transferred to the Asset Privatization Trust, which conducts negotiations for the disposal of the assets."/

The moderator asks what the president's projected visits to China, Switzerland, and so on will mean for the country. Aquino replies: "We know that our country needs help from other countries. /In fact, even rich and powerful countries have to have closer relations with the rest of the world./ There is a saying—/no man is an island/—which is about our not being isolated because we have to be part of the rest of the world. This is why I think that, just as I did in 1986, when I visited America and Japan, Indonesia and Singapore, this was important for us not just for the purpose of obtaining grants and other material assistance. This is also important to let the world know about our country and that we believe in democracy. /But more than anything else, it's really for good will./ We reach out our hands in friendship and in cooperation. So that, first and foremost, goes for any visit I make. But I will be taking along the cabinet members whose departments have direct concerns in the countries I am visiting, because it is important for them to get to know their counterparts in the different countries to facilitate future contacts. /Even in my case, because of my visits to the other countries—at least if there is really an emergency wherein I feel we need extra or immediate assistance, I think I can call on my counterparts./ If I still have not met them, it is a bit embarrassing to call them up—they might say: 'Who is this Cory Aquino that's calling?'"

The moderator asks if the president's trip to China is mainly to trace her roots. Aquino says it is, in a way. But she adds: /"I have never been to China, but again it is good for the heads of government to meet with each other and to see how they can help each other. There is a trade imbalance which is in China's favor./ So this is what Secretary Conception and my other economic

advisers are studying so we can find ways and means to balance our trade with China. That is one of the things we will try to achieve there."

The president also answers questions about the possibility of turning garbage into organic fertilizer, better insurance coverage for Filipino workers overseas, the controversy over the value-Added Tax, the Technology Resource Center, which protects inventors and farmers, medical allowances for government personnel, the Population Commission's outreach project on birth control, and how the government is coping with nationwide drug abuse.

Envoy Calls No Nuclear Policy 'Unsettling'
HK021019 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
2 Mar 88 p 24

[By Patricia Adversario]

[Text] Philippine ambassador to the United States Emmanuel Pelaez yesterday said a total nuclear-free policy is "unsettling" and at present, "not consistent with national interest."

Pelaez, who is on brief recall from his Washington stint, also told BUSINESS STAR that he is not taking a "confrontational stance" for a full implementation of this constitutional mandate.

He said the Americans will not bargain with their policy of maintaining secrecy on the passage of nuclear powered vessels or vessels carrying nuclear weapons in Philippine territory because it will weaken their global strategic defense.

"At this point in time, to ask for a total nuclear-free policy is to move toward confrontation with the United States and its naval vessels. This is, to me, not consistent with national interest. It is going to unsettle the situation," Pelaez said.

Pelaez said, however, that the Americans will agree not to store nuclear weapons in Philippine territory. But with nuclear vessels, he said, "they (the Americans) will not negotiate. They will not bargain with that. We've got to be realistic. They will not want to weaken their strategic position all over the world."

Pelaez aired his opinion as members of a joint committee on defense and foreign relations led by Senator Leticia Shahani yesterday urged Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, head of the Philippine panel on the bases review, to initiate a "forceful" implementation of inspection rights in determining the presence of nuclear weapons in U.S. military facilities at Clark and Subic.

Manglapus, who is also head of the preparatory committee on the bases review, later said the committee after its fifth meeting yesterday, still has to firm up its position on the nuclear-free provision as "official opinion from the justice department is not yet available."

The phrase in the Constitution "consistent with national interest" has given rise to two interpretations. One interpretation says that the phrase gives flexibility to the Chief Executive to define the conditions and definition of "national interest."

Another school thinks that it is consistent with national interest to adopt the nuclear free provision in its absolute unqualified sense.

This position was endorsed by former senator Arturo Tolentino, who was also summoned by the joint senate committee hearing yesterday. Tolentino said the nuclear-free provision is "self-executory, absolute and unqualified."

He cited a 1983 amendment in the Military Bases Agreement which obligates the U.S. Government to inform the Philippine government of changes in the level of equipment and weaponry, including nuclear weapons in U.S. facilities here.

Tolentino said that because of the 1983 provision, Americans cannot claim secrecy any more as to the presence of nuclear weapons in the bases.

He further asserted that with the ratification of the Constitution, which lays down the nuclear-free policy, Filipinos had already decided the fate of the bases as there is not much use the bases can have for the Americans without nuclear weapons.

Spanish Model for Bases Talks Considered
HK020957 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
2 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Although Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] maintain that Government wants to keep its cards close to its chest on the matter of the bases' retention, smoke signals indicating a "no-nonsense" stance continue to be sent to the American Embassy here.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday called the Senate's attention to a "relevant" provision in the Spanish-American military bases agreement.

From the strength of popular feeling against U.S. military presence in their country, the Spaniards voted to stay in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), but only on the condition of the reduction of weaponry and personnel.

Spain last year threatened not to renew its 34-year-old defense pact with the U.S. which expires this year. Tens of thousands rallied to remove a big number of F-16 fighter jets from the Torrejon base, despite the U.S. claim that these were "vital" to NATO's defense.

According to Sec. Manglapus, the present Spanish-U.S. treaty allows American military forces to use only territorial sea and air lanes. Although he did not make a definitive stand, he said the DFA is looking closely into a similar provision.

If adopted by the Philippine Government, American access to the bases in Clark and Subic will be drastically reduced. Their privileges may be limited to simple landing rights for re-fueling and re-stocking stop-overs, however, may be kept open to them.

Sec. Manglapus' pronouncement came at the heels of another DFA official's disclosure of what appears to be a snowballing move within the department to allow just a small U.S. strike force to operate in the country.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the "possible scenario" is for the Americans to settle for deployment privileges. He also noted that U.S. bases elsewhere in the region are being beefed up, and another is being constructed, just in case the agreement is not extended (see yesterday's issue).

Even as this developed, Sec. Manglapus, speaking before a joint hearing of the Senate foreign relations and national defense committees, said the ban on nuclear weapons cannot be enforced unless it is determined that their removal is "consistent with national interest."

The American policy has been "neither to confirm nor deny" the presence of nuclear weapons in U.S. military installations.

Members of the legislature, invoking the constitutional ban, have been pressuring the review committee to demand a categorical admission to demand a categorical admission or denied. A head-on confrontation has been avoided by both sides, so far.

The heads of the two Senate committees, Senators Leticia Shahani and Ernesto Maceda, support another on-site inspection. An ocular inspection was conducted by members of the Senate last year, but this did not yield results.

Thailand

Prem Defends Sitthi's Role in Lao Conflict
BK020227 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Mar 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon yesterday defended the role of Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila over the Ban Romklao border conflict, saying the minister had been a key figure in bringing about peaceful negotiations between Thailand and Laos.

The Premier's remarks came in the wake of allegations by the Opposition that the minister had mishandled the affair and threatened to take action against him in the Parliament for causing the Thai-Lao relations to deteriorate.

Gen Prem's remarks on the role of the Foreign Ministry, and ACM Sitthi in particular, were made to Cabinet ministers prior to yesterday's meeting.

Government spokesman Michai Wirawathaya quoted the Prime Minister as telling Cabinet ministers that the Foreign Ministry had played an active and vital role in bringing the two sides to the negotiating table.

"The Foreign Minister was in constant consultation with me and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut in his attempts to find a peaceful solution to the problem", Gen Prem was quoted as saying.

Foreign Ministry officials also played a pivotal role at the meeting of the Thai-Lao military leaders at the Air Force headquarters earlier last month by providing valuable information and advice to the Thai military delegation throughout the talks.

"The negotiations were carried out on a step-by-step basis and the Foreign Ministry's role will be more significant in the talks on March 3 (tomorrow)," Mr Michai quoted Gen Prem as saying.

Mr Michai said ACM Sitthi was showered with praise by the premier who called the minister "a highly capable man now serving his eighth year in that capacity in the ministry."

"He is the person who should be singled out for praise in helping bring about negotiations between Thailand and Laos through peaceful means," Gen Prem was quoted as saying.

However, the Opposition announced yesterday that they considered the Foreign Ministry solely responsible for the bloody fighting at Ban Romklao.

"It is obvious that the Foreign Ministry has failed to maintain the good relations between Thailand and Laos which have existed since 1979. It's obvious that the present Government has overlooked its importance and allowed the situation to deteriorate and allowing the dispute to escalate into heavy fighting," Community Action Party leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian charged at a press conference.

Addressing a press briefing organised by the Opposition, Mr Bunchu reiterated that the opposition parties would take the issue to the Parliament.

"The Opposition is yet to decide whether the move would be in the form of a query or a no-confidence motion against the foreign minister," he said.

Mr Bunchu said that the Opposition would not take any action against the military over the issue because it considered the Foreign Ministry to be at fault.

United Democratic Party leader Buntheng Thongsawat said that he felt the Prime Minister should also be blamed for the incident because he was directly in charge of both the Foreign and the Defence ministries.

Since the two ministries were under Gen Prem's control, the Prime Minister should accept responsibility by resigning, he said.

Prachakorn Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet commented that he felt there was lack of coordination between the military and the Government.

He claimed that despite the military agreement with Laos to release 12,000 tons of Laotian rice held up in Nong Khai, the Government had delayed the delivery for no apparent reason.

"I have a question to ask if the Government and the military are in the same country," he said.

Meanwhile, House Foreign Affairs Committee spokesman Surin Pitsuwan disclosed yesterday that the Foreign Ministry has indefinitely put off his plan to send representatives to brief four House and Senate committees on the Ban Romklao border conflict scheduled for this Friday.

The Foreign Ministry has requested a postponement of the briefing saying that the representatives would be too busy in border talks.

Laos has officially confirmed it will send a delegation to the talks tomorrow to resolve the border dispute.

Chawalit Lauds Work of Border Committee
BK020217 Bangkok THE NATION in English
2 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Phitsanulok—Thailand and Laos may set up a joint committee to handle possible territorial disputes in the future along their 1,600-kilometre border, army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Authorities of the two neighbouring countries are looking into the possibility of setting up a joint committee, Chawalit said, and added "its formation now appears imminent."

Chawalit, who visited Thai military positions near the disputed Hill 1428 yesterday, lauded the success of another Thai-Laotian joint commission—set up last month to enforce the cease-fire and monitor troop pull-outs following the Thai-Laotian peace agreement.

"I'm very happy with the work of the committee," the Thai army chief told reporters.

Meanwhile, Thai and Laotian military delegates yesterday danced and dined together in Laos' Sayaboury province opposite Loei province of Thailand to celebrate their success in achieving the twin objectives of the treaty.

The two delegations held a joint press conference in Sayaboury's Meuang Phe district to announce their "satisfactory work."

Dozens of Thais, including reporters, military and local officials, crossed the Heuang River into Meuang Phe of Laos to witness the celebration.

The Laotians also hosted a lunch, complete with Thai Saeng Som whisky and local beer, as a Lao military band entertained them with music.

Laotian women soldiers also invited Thai military and local officials to join the traditional "Ramvong" dance.

The celebration yesterday marked the end of a joint military operation to organize troop withdrawals and enforce the cease-fire.

No fighting between the two forces has been reported since the cease-fire took effect on Feb 19.

Troops of the two countries yesterday continued to retrieve landmines and the bodies of their comrades killed in the nearly four-month-long border fighting.

So far they have recovered 21 Thai and seven Laotian bodies from remote, rugged hills, where an estimated 700 Thai and Laotian soldiers were killed.

Thailand and Lao will hold diplomatic talks tomorrow in Bangkok to seek a solution to the border conflict, stemming from the different interpretations of the France-Siamese Treaty and maps attached to it.

Both sides have laid claim to a 75-square-kilometre forested, hilly terrain on the border between the Thai northern province of Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury province.

Cabinet Approves Money Transfer to Secret Fund
BK030121 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved the Defence Ministry's proposal to transfer eight million baht from a 1988 Air Force budget of 20 million baht intended for a work plan to a secret fund.

The eight-million-baht fund will be used to beef up air defence along the border with Laos and Kampuchea.

The Budget Bureau has already approved the proposal.

Sitthi, Polish Foreign Minister Discuss Ties
BK020117 Bangkok THE NATION in English
2 Mar 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and his Polish counterpart Prof Marian Orzechowski yesterday discussed the strengthening of Thai-Polish bilateral ties.

Orzechowski arrived here Monday [29 February] for a five-day visit to promote economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

He told reporters upon his arrival that both nations have undergone economic changes that would provide opportunities to expand economic relations.

Orzechowski is scheduled to visit Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon today.

Thailand and Poland have enjoyed cordial relations with increasing trade volume. Sitthi visited Poland last year.

During his five-day visit, Orzechowski and his wife Lucyna will tour the Grand Palace and Wat Chettuphol. He will also tour the Chao Phya River.

He will speak with representatives from Charoen Phokkaphan Group of Companies and inspect their factories. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports on GSP Talks With U.S.
BK020229 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Mar 88 pp 13, 28

[Text] A Thai ministerial delegation visiting Washington to discuss bilateral trade matters including the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and intellectual property protection described talks yesterday as "frank and open".

The US side, on the other hand, said "there are still major difficulties to overcome".

The Thai delegation was led by Minister Attached to the PM's Office Arun Phanuphong and included Public Health Minister Thoetphong Chaiyanan, Deputy Commerce Minister Chuchip Hansawat and Deputy Finance Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak.

The US side was led by Trade Representative [USTR] Clayton Yeutter.

The meeting yesterday was considered a "showdown" between the Thai and US representatives.

After the meeting some participants described the situation as "still very fluid", while others said this description was rather "optimistic".

The meeting was the last scheduled between high-level officials on GSP, but no one wants to predict the outcome of the annual US GSP product review. The decision is to be announced, as required by law, by President Reagan by April 1.

The discussion was part of consultation efforts between the Thai and US governments to respond to three petitions filed in May last year by American industries asking to remove Thailand's eligibility under the GSP programme.

The three petitions were from the AFL-CIO on workers rights, from the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) on copyright protection and from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA).

The US Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 states clearly that all decisions on modifications to the list of articles eligible for GSP must be based on five conditions. They are the extent to which beneficiaries are: offering reasonable and equitable market access to US goods and services; adequately and effectively protecting US intellectual property rights; eliminating trade-distorting export practices; and ensuring "internationally recognised worker rights".

The Thai Embassy in Washington has worked closely with the State Department, which appears to genuinely want Thailand to maintain its benefits under GSP and has tried very hard to find common ground acceptable to both sides.

There has been a series of consultations in Thailand and the US between working-level officials on the three GSP petitions.

According to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labour and Ambassador to the International Labour Organisation Eugene Lawson, the US was satisfied with the Thai Government's efforts to improve protection against child labour.

The issue of worker rights was discussed in passing among the three issues, indicating little difference between the Thai and US positions.

On the copyright issue, the US officials said they were grateful for what the Thai Government did, referring to the recent Cabinet decision to propose an amendment to the Thai Copyright Act of 1978. Under the Cabinet's proposal, copyright protection will be afforded to countries with a bilateral treaty with Thailand whether or not they are a signatory to the Berne Convention.

The US, a member of the Universal Copyright Convention (UCC), is not a member of the Berne Convention. It has, however, a bilateral treaty with Thailand (Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations of 1921 and last revised

in 1978). The US and Thailand have been interpreting the treaty differently and, as a result, US works are not granted direct eligibility for protection under Thai law.

In its petition, the International Intellectual Property Alliance said it was concerned by uncertainties over protection for US works and revenue losses estimated at around \$45 million annually from piracy of US copyrighted works in Thailand.

Recently, the US administration said it appreciated the Juridical Council of Thailand ruling that computer software is protected under Thai law.

The developments in Thailand on the copyright issue are considered encouraging by the US and headed in the direction of adequate and effective copyright protection.

As for the annual GSP review, there were discussions on opening the US to several items such as fresh Thai fruit in return for Thailand accepting US apples and wheat. The US administration assured Thailand that there was no increase in tariffs on canned sardines under the Harmonised System.

The issue which deeply divides Thailand and US is patent protection with the "exclusion provision" in the Thai Patent Act of 1979 causing the most tension.

Under current law, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical ingredients are not granted product patents. There is, however, process patent protection for pharmaceuticals for 15 years after the date of filing.

In its petition, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) initially asked that Thailand grant patent protection for products in the "pipeline"—that is, pharmaceutical products waiting Public Health Ministry approval—and new products.

The petition claimed the protection would affect only 20-30 patentable products which enter the market each year and would not affect the 5,000 pharmaceutical products already sold in Thailand. Of the 5,000 products, 97 percent are already off-patent abroad, so the product protection would have minimal effect on those products already in the market.

Thailand has been arguing that the pharmaceutical industry is investment intensive and requires a large labour force of highly educated and well-trained workers. The industry's research and development expenditure is enormous. As such, it is virtually impossible for Thailand to establish and develop a pharmaceutical industry competitive with large pharmaceutical companies from industrialised nations.

After extensive exchanges on technical aspects of the issue between the Thai delegation led by Permanent Commerce Secretary Phachara Itsarasena and the US, the PMA last week retracted its original position.

PMA counsel Ed Rozinski told the Business Post the PMA would be willing to accept some "signal of good faith" from Thailand such as an interim measure which would provide product protection to new products only.

"We are not even talking about those pipeline products," he said.

However, that did not bring Thailand and the US closer.

During his meeting with Mr Yeutter yesterday, Mr Arun reportedly said Thailand could not amend the Patent Act immediately. He said Thailand would give strong support at the Uruguay Round negotiations on intellectual property which begin in Geneva next week.

Once the international standards for intellectual property protection are established in the Uruguay Round, which is expected to take two years to complete, Thailand will launch a study on a wide range of intellectual property protection and not concentrate on the exclusion provision.

The reason Thailand wants to wait for the results of the Uruguay Round, argued the Thailand delegation, is to ensure the revision of the Thai law is consistent with the international standards established at the multilateral negotiations. After the study and other due legal processes, the Government will "submit" a bill to the Parliament. The entire process will take at least three years.

Mr Yeutter, who last Friday at a press conference called international intellectual property violations "thievery", indicated to the Thai side that he found the Thai proposal unacceptable. He said intellectual property rights violation is an "indefensible moral position".

The meeting ended without either side making any offer which would bring their positions closer. No more meetings were scheduled.

Some Thai officials indicated the noticeable difference in positions between the USTR and the State Department. The latter seemed more responsive to Thailand's position.

In the afternoon, Dr Gaston Sigur, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, called on Mr Arun to discuss the whole range of Thai-US relations.

Dr Sigur said the US administration appreciated the fact Thailand had sent a ministerial delegation to Washington to discuss GSP and intellectual property protection.

This, he said, showed the sincerity of Thailand in resolving the problem. although details of the meeting were not disclosed, it is believed that both sides touched on issues discussed earlier in the morning session.

High ranking US government officials have already promised to rally in support of Thailand when the matter reaches the President's office. Some of these officials vowed to "take Yeutter to the cleaners".

All that remains of the annual GSP product review is for the trade policy staff committee to draft a recommendation and submit it to President Reagan for consideration. The inter-agency group will meet in early March. The President is allowed by law to make a discretionary decision on the matter.

Several Asian countries between 1985 and 1987 bowed to US pressure and either amended, enacted or are in the process of passing laws which provide increased intellectual property protection. Among these countries are Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. None of these countries are said to have experienced drastic price increases for protected products nor a strong public outcry for providing the protection.

The latest US government statistics show ASEAN countries benefitted more from the GSP programme in 1987 than 1986. In 1987 Philippines exports under GSP earned \$329 million (\$230 million in 1986), Malaysia \$347 million (up from \$189 million), Indonesia \$49 million (from \$34.5 million) Singapore \$1.3 billion (from \$730 million) and Thailand \$552 million (from \$351 million). Brunei has never been a significant user.

Thailand's exports to the US constitute about 18 percent of its exports worldwide, whereas US exports to Thailand represent only 0.6 percent of its total exports. In 1987 the value of exports from Thailand to the US was \$2,387 billion (up from \$1,872 billion in 1986). US exports in 1987 to Thailand were valued at \$1,544 billion (\$936 million in 1986).

With or without GSP, there remains a chance that private industries could file a 301 petition against a country perceived of practicing unfair trade measures which include inadequate and ineffective intellectual property protection. Such petitions were filed against Brazil and Chile.

Under the law, the US government is required to impose tariffs on imports from these countries equal to the estimated revenue lost by US industries due to inadequate and ineffective intellectual property protection or other unfair trade practices.

Vietnam

VNA Reports 17 MIA Remains Returned to U.S.
BK021544 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—Vietnam today returned to the U.S. side the remains of 17 more American servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam war.

This brings to a total of 28 American MIA remains the Vietnamese side has returned to the U.S. side since the last visit to Hanoi in August 1987 of General John Vessey, special envoy of the U.S. President.

At a hand-over ceremony here, the Vietnam Office for Search of Missing Personnel also provided the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center [JCRC] with information about three other American MIA's. A representative of the JCRC highly appreciated the humane policy and goodwill of the Vietnamese Government.

Technical Meeting Set for 12 March
BK021054 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 GMT
2 Mar 88

[By Gilles Campion]

[Text] Hanoi, March 2 (AFP)—Vietnam turned over the presumed remains of 17 U.S. servicemen missing in action (MIA) since the Vietnam war to a U.S. military delegation here Wednesday, officials said.

It was the third-largest number of remains to be handed over to the United States by Hanoi since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975.

Hanoi gave the remains of 26 MIA's to Washington in August 1985 and those of 21 in April 1986.

The remains turned over Wednesday, enclosed in 17 metal caskets, were flown out of the Vietnamese capital aboard a U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter.

They are to be taken to a U.S. air base in Guam and then a U.S. Army identification center in Hawaii for analysis, officials said.

A spokesman for the U.S. delegation, Major Tim Pfister, told reporters here that a total of 159 MIA's had been identified so far on the basis of remains turned over to the United States by Vietnam.

More than 2,400 U.S. servicemen disappeared in Indochina during the war, including some 1,770 in Vietnam, according to U.S. statistics.

"The members of the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory and Joint Casualty Resolution Center have received the remains of what is believed to be those of 17 missing Americans and additional information on what is believed to be three missing Americans," Maj. Pfister said.

"The U.S. Government appreciates this humanitarian action on the part of the Vietnamese Government and hopes this repatriation is just one of many more such efforts to resolve the fates of those American still missing," he added.

Nguyen Can, assistant director of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's North America Department, also disclosed Wednesday that a new technical meeting on MIA's would be held on March 12 in Hanoi.

Mr. Can declined to say if a joint U.S.-Vietnamese search such as that conducted at the site of a B-52 bomber crash in a Hanoi suburb in late 1985 would take place this year.

Major Pfister also declined to comment. "I don't have any information on that," he said.

The 22-member U.S. delegation was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Mather of a Bangkok-based mission charged with searching for MIA's.

Vietnam has turned over 25 sets of MIA remains to the United States since U.S. presidential envoy General John Vessey visited Hanoi last year and gave a boost to strained relations between the two countries.

That involved U.S. acknowledgment of responsibility in resolving some of the humanitarian problems resulting from the Vietnam war and Vietnamese agreement to accelerate the search for MIA's.

Democratic Party Condemns PRC Island Actions
BK011206 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Vietnam Democratic Party [VDP] just issued a statement condemning Chinese authorities for their violations of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago. The statement says:

All cadres and members of the VDP are sternly indignant over the Chinese authorities' military acts in recent days, acts arrogantly violating Vietnam's sacred territorial sovereignty in the Truong Sa Archipelago.

To deceive world public opinion, they have sophistically argued that these are merely normal, legal acts. However, no one can believe this obviously deceptive tone because history and law have affirmed that the Truong Sa Archipelago, as well as the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago, is part of Vietnam's inviolable sovereignty as pointed out in the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry white paper made public on 7 August 1979.

For these reasons, together with the entire Vietnamese people, the VDP completely agree with the SRV Foreign Ministry's 20 February statement severely condemning the military actions of the Chinese authorities and revealing their sophistry while resolutely demanding that China immediately withdraw its military forces from the Truong Sa area as well as put an end to all violations of Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa Archipelago.

Meeting Protests Dispatching of Chinese Troops
BK011018 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] On the afternoon of 29 February, representatives of notables, intellectuals, mass organizations, and religious groups in Hanoi met at the VFF committee headquarters to voice persistent protests against the dispatch of military forces by Chinese authorities to the two submerged reefs of Chu Thap and Chau Vien in Vietnam's Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago.

The representatives unanimously agreed with the SRV Foreign Ministry's 20 February statement which resolutely demanded that China immediately withdraw its forces from the Truong Sa area, put an end to all violations of Vietnam's sovereignty, and pull out of the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago, which it occupied earlier against international law.

On behalf of the representatives of the people from all strata in the capital, lawyer Tran Kim Ly read the letter sent to our cadres, combatants, and compatriots on the Truong Sa Archipelago by representatives of the people in the capital expressing gratitude and love to the combatants and people of Truong Sa, who are enduring hardships every day and night and gallantly defending the country's airspace and territorial waters.

The people of Hanoi pledged to express their sentiments by practical actions in productive labor and military duty and by remaining ready to work in support of the cadres, combatants, and people on the Truong Sa Islands, thereby contributing to the firm defense of the country at various forward positions.

Pham Hung Attends Health Ministry Gathering
BK271403 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Summary] Today, on the occasion of Vietnam's Physicians Day, the Ministry of Health organized a get-together of professors, doctors, and health cadres of units at the central level and of some northern provinces. Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung attended.

"Health Minister Dang Hoi Xuan pointed to the efforts of doctors, cadres, and health personnel of the over the past year. Despite many difficulties, they tried to fulfill their duty of providing health care to the people. Implementing Uncle Ho's teaching that good doctors are like kind mothers, many doctors and health personnel have upheld the example of wholeheartedly serving patients, bringing joy to many families." He also pointed to shortcomings in the sector during the past year due to socioeconomic problems.

In a spirit of plain-speaking, many participants at the get-together spoke frankly of the current situation in the health sector and asked the state and the people to be truly concerned with the living conditions and contributions of physicians.

"After hearing statements by various delegates, Chairman Pham Hung cordially addressed the get-together. He cited the efforts of the health sector and the true labor examples of serving patients. He also said that the health sector is still far from being able to meet the requirements of society, and that the state is partly responsible for this state of affairs. As a result, he made some suggestions that the state would consider and act upon."

Concluding his address, Chairman Pham Hung hoped that all professors, doctors, cadres, and workers of the health sector will firmly preserve the fine qualities of Vietnamese physicians, and successfully implement their duties in the renewal spirit of the sixth party congress.

Addresses Get-Together

BK290718 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 28 Feb 88

["Report" on Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Hung's address at Hanoi 27 February medical workers get-together]

[Text] On the occasion of the 27 February Vietnam Medical Workers Day, Comrade Pham Hung, member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, cordially met with cadres and personnel of the public health sector in Hanoi. Attending the get-together were more than 300 medical cadres, professors, doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and technicians working with the Ministry of Public Health, research institutes, universities, hospitals, and in village and subward public health posts in Hanoi and the provinces.

On behalf of the party and state, Chairman Pham Hung cordially addressed delegates representing the contingent of Vietnamese medical workers. He said: The task of looking after the people's health, in which the public health sector plays an important role, is a very important and glorious cause. This great social activity directly involves the people's daily life; ensures and strengthens the labor and creative capability of each individual, family, and society at large and enhances happiness for this and future generations of our people.

Afterward, Comrade Pham Hung commended medical workers for their achievements. He also expressed sympathy for them in coping with and overcoming numerous difficulties, especially in strengthening the public health sector. He said: On this occasion, on behalf of the SRV Government I sincerely thank international organizations for their concrete assistance and support to Vietnam in its cause of looking after and ensuring the people's health. This assistance is an important factor in helping us to make these achievements. However, as we

are well aware, our public health work still has a long way to go to meet requirements of society. Moreover, the current health situation of our people has been a great concern to us all. Malnutrition and common epidemics are developing while physiological targets set for children and youth have not been fulfilled. Equipment for, and treatment of, patients at many hospitals are poor and deteriorating, while the rate of population increase is too high and declining very slowly. In coping with this situation, the Ministry of Public Health alone cannot solve all problems. It requires integrated efforts from the nation, from all socioeconomic areas, from all sectors and all strata of the people. The state will pay utmost attention to providing funds and making appropriate investments in public health activities. It will basically review the wage system for cadres and personnel of professional sectors, including the public health sector; however, we may foresee that if expenses of all activities of the public health sector, including wages for its cadres and personnel, depend entirely on the state budget, as is the current practice, then the following situations will prevail:

First, the public health sector's budget for activities and investment for the immediate future cannot be increased to meet the current urgent and great requirements of the people both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Second, we cannot encourage and create favorable conditions for grass-roots public health units to strive to improve their facilities and enhance the quality of their services. Thus, a capable public health unit will receive no better facilities than a poorer one to strive to strengthen its material and technical bases and to increase income and improve the standard of living of its public health cadres and personnel. It is noteworthy that all expenses for public health activities depend entirely on the state as specified in the general regulations, while improvement of the living standard of cadres and personnel depends on production activities and not on public health activities, that is on the result of the implementation of political tasks by grass-roots units.

Third, the income of each individual or each public health cadre and worker does not depend on the productivity and quality of their services. In other words, we may say that the public health service also requires renovation in policy, management mechanism, and work method for grass-roots units as well as for the entire sector.

It is high time for us to carry out a fundamental study of the following questions: How can we implement more widely, strictly, and universally the policy of state and people working together and central and local entities joining efforts in public health service? What policies and forms of organization should be adopted so as to rationally mobilize the people's contributions for covering the costs of medical services and to encourage people to use their capital and material means, and even the professional knowledge of specialists, to develop public

health service more expeditiously and more comprehensively? Can—and should—development of public health activities of the collective and private sectors be encouraged? If the answer is yes, how should these activities be controlled by the state? How can we abolish the subsidy-based management mechanism; switch the state-operated public health service establishments to the business accounting system; enhance the right to autonomy, dynamism, and creativity of these establishments; improve the efficiency and quality of their services; and create favorable conditions for efficient establishments to actively replace, supplement, or modernize their equipment and broaden the scope of their activities? How should labor in the public health service be paid to provide material incentives for medical workers and to ensure a more satisfactory implementation of the principle of division of labor and distribution of income according to work done?

The above are some suggestions I have made for your consideration and discussion. The public health sector itself is the most qualified and has the primary responsibility for answering these and other similar questions on renovating the mechanism, policy, and organization of the management of public health activities.

We have gained some definite, practical experience in this matter. A number of establishments and localities have allowed some sectors to provide medical services on an experimental basis. In some areas a medical-aid fund has been established in a number of subwards and villages. Many localities have followed a more dynamic approach by securing, with popular support, rational sources of revenue to supplement their budget, acquire additional equipment, and improve the quality of service. Some units have provided services outside office hours, thereby satisfying popular demand while increasing their cadres' and employees' income. In some localities, cooperatives and private medical workers—practicing Western or traditional medicine—have been allowed to ply their trade by providing medical treatment to the people and have won both public trust and acclaim. The public health sector should continue to seek out and study such cooperatives and medical workers, review their practices, draw suitable conclusions, and make necessary suggestions to the state for the issuance of appropriate policies.

Of course, material gains cannot be the sole consideration in curing diseases and saving human lives. Perhaps in this field more than anywhere else, the conscience and sense of responsibility of the medical worker play an exceptionally important role. In the public health service in general and in treating diseases and saving lives in particular, we must resolutely struggle against the evils of negativism and bullying the people. Nor can we tolerate indifference and irresponsibility toward the sufferings of patients and the dangers posed to their lives.

In the field of medical service, it goes without saying that evaluating labor efficiency and quality is much more difficult than judging the productivity of a factory worker. Therefore, the public health sector should refrain

from hastily and mechanically applying in toto the accounting system practiced in the production sectors. It should carry out a thorough study of the system in order to apply it in such a way as to suit its requirements. It is absolutely necessary that experiments be conducted first to gain experience and that the system be implemented on a gradually larger scale afterward.

In the current economic conditions of our country, only by changing the management mechanism of the entire public health service system along with formulating rational social policies and bringing into full play all latent potentials of the people to contribute, together with the state, to public health activities, will we be able to create favorable conditions for the public health service to develop and to serve the people better.

Finally, I would like to say something about primary health care and the responsibility of various administrative organs, sectors, and mass organizations in task of caring for the people's health.

For the past several years, observing the World Health Organization's initiative, we have considered the people's primary health care as one of the key tasks to be carried out by our health service. This is a very correct policy.

Primary health care calls for our efforts to help all Vietnamese citizens and households meet a number of essential health care requirements through measures and techniques commensurate with the economic conditions of our country and with the participation of all sectors and mass organizations.

The health service has set forth 10 primary health care requirements befitting the actual conditions of our country. It is necessary for our health sector and mass media to accelerate propaganda work vigorously so all sectors, echelons, households, and individuals clearly understand various concrete tasks that need to be done to fulfill these requirements, thus guaranteeing conditions for the people's health care to achieve increasingly better results.

Health care is for the people and by the people. It is important for all individuals and households to care for their own health as well as to contribute voluntarily to protecting the environment, sanitation facilities, and health conditions of hamlets, villages, public places, streets, and factories. It is for this very reason that health education constitutes one of the most important elements of our primary health care program. We still have much work to do in this area.

Our people's health care program must start with eating places, living quarters, and the work place. It is necessary to keep living quarters and the work place in good sanitary condition. Efforts must be made to keep everything nice and clean. This is one way of promoting a

healthy and civilized life and a manifestation of self-respect. This guarantees conditions for work efficiency and contributes to making life more enjoyable.

Of course, material conditions are necessary factors for making everything look nice and clean in our living quarters and the work place. Yet, material conditions are not the only factors that count. We must also take into account awareness, efforts to combat negligence, and a sense of organization. It is our hope that in conjunction with other cultural activities, the health service will coordinate with all sectors concerned and mass organizations in kicking off a more widespread and more deep-rooted rural sanitation movement, in drastically developing a new rural area, and in vigorously initiating a movement to keep houses, streets, factories, and stores in all cities, especially in the capital of Hanoi, nice and clean.

It is necessary to persist in our efforts to make everyone aware of the need to care for mothers and children, to carry out family planning, and to curb overpopulation. Efforts must be made to work out concrete and multifaceted measures for implementing those tasks. This is both an urgent and long-term task to be carried out by our country. So far, no satisfactory results have been achieved. It is necessary for the health service and all sectors concerned to learn from the concrete experience of various localities and propose measures to be taken by the state so this campaign may achieve more marked progress in the days to come.

For a long time now, proper attention has not been given to the activities of the pharmaceutical branch although medicines are the weapons of the public health sector. The sector should focus on developing the pharmaceutical production branch throughout the country—from the central level down to the various provinces, districts, and villages—step up the movement to plant medicinal herbs, and guide the various localities in producing and processing common medicines while vigorously promoting the mass production of pharmaceuticals to meet domestic demand and for export.

Caring for the people's health is the responsibility of the entire party, all administrative echelons, mass organizations, and all citizens. This is an undertaking of the whole society; and it cannot be accomplished by the public health sector alone. Regarding family planning for an instance, the public health sector is only equipped to provide technical service; and it needs the coordination of party committee echelons, administrative bodies, and mass organizations in guiding the formulation of plans for local population development, devising measures for their implementation, and launching a publicity campaign to make the people realize the need for family planning and carry it out voluntarily. Only in this way will it be possible to achieve good results.

Marine Transport Service Development Planned
BK020415 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Mar 1—One of the main orientations for the development of Vietnam's transport service in the years ahead is to promote cooperation with foreign countries in order to draw more capital for gradually raising its organizing and operating capacity, improving its facilities and step by step satisfying transport requirements at home.

This was made known by Prof. Dr. Le Duc Hao, chief of the Department for Foreign Cooperation of the Ministry of Communications and Transport, in a recent interview with a VNA correspondent on the ministry's task of executing the Law on Foreign Investment newly promulgated by the National Assembly.

Prof. Hao said that since the promulgation of the law late last year, more than 20 projects on economic cooperation with foreign countries have been studied and applied under the direct guidance of the ministry. These focus on economic contracts with foreign countries in construction, transport engineering and specialized services in river, land, rail transport with shipping as the keynote.

By the end of 1988, Vietnam's mercantile marine had a dead weight tonnage of 321,000, which will be reduced to 100,000 tons in 1995. Instead, it will be supplied with newer ships of six to 12 years of age. The shipping service is building two major bases for dismantling ageing ships: One at the Pha Rung shipyard in the north and the other at Quy Nhon Town in the southern province of Phu Khanh. These two bases can dismantle 44,000 tons of ageing ships a year for recycling. The service also plans to build two oxygen stations, one in the north and another in the south. Over recent years, Vietnam has cooperated with foreign countries in salvaging ships sunken in its waters during the Second World War. In 1988 it plans to refloat ten ships off the coast of the central province of Nghia Binh on the principle of "no cure, no pay." Vietnam will get 51 percent of the property salvaged, the other party 49 percent.

One of the ministry's primary tasks for the time being is to further develop ship building and repairing. As for ship repairing, Vietnam will cooperate with Finland in raising the efficiency of the Pha Rung shipyard in Quang Ninh Province, northeast of Hanoi. It has signed a contract with Finland for the establishment of a joint venture for ten years starting in 1989, to which Vietnam will contribute 60 percent of the capital. Under this contract, the joint venture will rent houses equipment and the dry-dock at Pha Rung shipyard from the Vietnamese Government.

The Pha Rung shipyard, built with 185 million Finish marks as nonrefundable aid from Finland, has so far repaired more than 30 Vietnamese and Soviet vessels, including 12,000-ton ships.

The Ministry of Communications and Transport is conducting a feasibility survey for the building of a shipyard in Ho Chi Minh City in cooperation with other countries. With regard to ship-building, the ministry is carrying out a multilateral agreement in organizing specialized production lines in the building of ships and barges for C.E.M.A. member countries. It is also executing an agreement with the Soviet Union on ship building and repairing. The Soviet Union is making loans to Vietnam to modernize three ship building facilities: Bach Dang and Ha Long shipyards in the north and Engineering Factory No. 2 in the south.

These facilities will build 15 ships of various kinds from now to 1990 and 292 ships and barges in the 1991-95 period.

The ministry built 12 ships and ferry-boats for Laos in the 1982-87 period and will sign a contract to build 6 vessels for Kampuchea.

In cooperation with Sweden, the ministry has used 10 million Swedish kronor as aid to build vessels for carrying bambo, wood, and other supplies for the Bai Bang paper mill, and rice from the Mekong River Delta to the paper-making complex. Also with assistance from Sweden, Vietnam will build 500-hp ships, 1,000-ton barges, and tourist sailboats. A contract to build tourist sailboats for France has been signed.

Vietnam will import ship engines from the Soviet Union and other countries to build dredgers with a capacity of 300 cubic metres per hour.

In cooperation with foreign companies, the ministry will produce anti-shipworm and anti-corrosion paint for the home-market. The ministry has also signed contracts with Singaporean and French companies to hire ship crews for operation on sea-routes in Southeast Asia. It has also approached Greek shipping companies for a similar joint venture.

Agricultural Production Activities Updated
BK011009 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Agriculture Review]

[Summary] "According to the Statistics General Department, as of 25 February, there were, in the entire country, over 1,636,000 hectares of land put under winter-spring rice, representing 85 percent of the planned target," with the areas transplanted in southern provinces amounting to over 780,000 hectares and in northern provinces reaching 856,000 hectares.

Southern provinces may be unable to fulfill their planned target for winter-spring acreage because the sowing schedule is already over. Winter-spring rice in southern provinces is, in general, developing favorably.

"At present, certain harmful insects such as brown leaphoppers, leaf-eating caterpillars, and floating worms have developed at a normal rate. This year's winter-spring crop in southern provinces will be very promising if we plan well to care for and protect the crop." This is because southern provinces this year received fertilizers and insecticide in far greater quantities than was planned.

"In northern provinces, during the post-Tet period it was chilly cold, drizzling for many days, thus slowing down the pace of rice transplanting. There are now around 150,000 hectares still left uncultivated."

With regard to the short-term vegetable, subsidiary food crop, and industrial crop area, as of 25 February, the country as a whole had completed the planting on over 390,000 hectares. The planting of corn and sweet potatoes, the two main crops, has exceeded the planned target for area, compared to the same period last.

According to a forecast of the Meteorological Agency, there is still no chance that it will be dry and sunny in the next 10 days. What northern provinces have to do now is to strive to urgently transplant all the winter-spring rice area as scheduled if the weather permits. As for southern provinces, they must shift the focus of their farmwork to caring for winter-spring rice while taking precautions against insect infestation. In addition, all localities in the country must concentrate on developing the hog population as the total number of hogs has shown a sharp decrease following the Tet celebration.

Paper on Renovating Agricultural Policy

BK271540 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 26 Feb 88

[27 February NHAN DAN editorial: "Renovate Policies Toward Agriculture and Peasants"]

[Text] To enable agriculture, which, broadly speaking, includes forestry, fishery, and the agricultural products' processing industry, to truly become the most important economic front, it is necessary to comprehensively and uniformly renovate various policies toward agriculture and peasants as clearly expounded in the resolution of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum. The resolution states that the purposes of renovation are: the liberation of production forces; the rapid increase of marketable agricultural products; meeting the increasing demands for food grain, raw materials used in industry, and agricultural products for export; and steady improvement in the peasants' livelihood; and construction of new, socialist rural areas.

It is necessary to build up and consolidate socialist production relations and make correct use of other economic components in conjunction with efforts to renovate the mechanism of agricultural management. State-run agricultural, forestry, and fishery production and service establishments must streamline their organizations, and their right to autonomy in production and business must truly be guaranteed so they can develop their inherent strength and join other state-run enterprises in playing a leading role in the economy. Those establishments consistently operating at a loss must set a time limit for their own consolidation. If they still fail, they must shift to another business or find a suitable mode of production.

Collectively-run socialist economic units, including cooperatives and production collectives, must be established in accordance with the democratic principles of voluntariness and mutual benefit to suit the socioeconomic situation in each given area without any restrictions and without going about their work mechanically. It is necessary to modify planning methods, financial and credit work, and solve problems regarding the exchange of materials, prices, and the consumption of products to suit the character of socialist collective mastery of those cooperatives and production collectives that operate according to principles of self-management, responsibility for the results of their production and business activities, and without irrational restrictions.

It is necessary to continue to perfect the system of issuing contracts for end-products to families or groups of families of cooperative members, or to groups of workers. Depending on branches and trades and on planned norms for unit prices, it is also necessary to link production plans with distribution plans from the start. With regard to crop cultivation and animal husbandry, basically we must carry out the contract system down to the families of cooperative members. Producing socialist goods with high output, quality, and efficiency is regarded as a means of evaluating the situation regarding the consolidation of various socialist economic units in accordance with renovation.

Making capital investment is a major policy aimed at guaranteeing conditions for developing the production of socialist goods. Along with increased capital investment by the state in agriculture in line with revising the investment structure, it is necessary to obtain investment capital in various forms if we are to derive the abundant sources of capital from the people in order to fund efforts to intensify crop cultivation, animal husbandry, afforestation, fishery, handicrafts, and support services. It is necessary to encourage overseas Vietnamese and foreign corporations to invest in developing agriculture and the processing industry in accordance with the investment law already promulgated. Priority must be given to investing in those projects and industrial products which directly support agriculture and deal with intensive agricultural cultivation areas and leading economic projects. Appropriate investment must be

made in scientific and technical research and in the application of scientific and technical findings in agricultural, forestry, and fishery production.

Policies regarding the supply of materials, agricultural taxation, obligatory labor, and consumption of products must also be revised in reducing unnecessary intermediary bodies as they may give rise to embezzlement and inconvenience establishments and producers. It is necessary to ensure that the exchange of goods is carried out on an agreed-upon basis and that contributions made by peasants, especially those in the specialized cultivation areas where essential social products are manufactured, are reduced. It is necessary to oppose collection of additional taxes, as this may give establishments and producers a difficult time.

Those renovative policies regarded as more liberal to agriculture and peasants must come from the ideas of promoting the increased manufacture of marketable agricultural products, bringing about the worker-peasant alliance in the new stage, and contributing to stabilizing the overall socioeconomic situation of the country, therefore serving the interest of the entire people. Everyone must fully understand these profound truths in order to support this important renovation drive. On the other hand, every locality and production establishment and every agricultural worker's family and peasant's family must realize the meaning of the renovation of policies. They must also be determined to step up production in accordance with plans, make full payment of taxes, honestly settle all contracts, and sell more agricultural products to the state. They should not concern themselves with their personal gains only while leaving their debts unpaid and haggling excessively over prices and contractual conditions, as this may cause difficulties to the state or to the entire people, including their own localities, establishments, and families.

NHAN DAN Urges Increased Goods Production
BK291655 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
22 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Step Up the Production of Socialist Goods"]

[Text] Our goal for the 1988-90 period involves stabilizing the socioeconomic situation by creating favorable conditions for socioeconomic development in the years to come. In the process of seeking a thorough understanding of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution, all echelons and sectors have unanimously agreed with the resolution that the decisive factor in achieving various socioeconomic objectives is the vigorous development of the production of goods and high productivity, quality, and economic efficiency. First of all, we must concentrate efforts on carrying out the three economic programs, especially the grain and food program.

The production of goods must be aimed at achieving more than self-sufficiency; it must exceed the consumption demands of individuals, families, and localities so there is some left for exchange among localities or throughout the country. While the annual rate of per-capita grain distribution is under 300 kg and the supply of sugar and cloth can meet only 60 to 70 percent of the minimum consumption requirements of the people, it is impossible for us to avoid a supply and demand crisis. For this reason, expanding production and increasing social products constitute the base for developing the production of goods. In carrying out production in various regions according to plan and bringing into play the strengths of each region and each locality, all production installations should apply advanced technology and the new management mechanism to ensure high labor productivity for all types of products. They should also carry out the division of social labor to establish the premise for the development of the production of goods.

During the first stage of the transition period to socialism, we must strengthen various socialist economic components along with bringing into play all the potentials of other economic components to make it possible for them to join in developing the production of goods. By vigorously switching all economic activities of various socialist economic units to accounting and business methods and by ensuring high productivity, quality, and efficiency in production and business operations, favorable conditions will be created for these economic units to make the fullest use of their existing capabilities to help step up the production of goods and develop their key role for other economic components to follow. Meanwhile, by enforcing policies to encourage other economic components to develop production, additional capabilities will be discovered for increasing social and marketable products to meet the needs arising from production and the people's livelihood. The state should recognize the unending existence and positive effect of the family economy, the collective economy, and the economy of individuals who engage in production and provide service. Through various policies, economic laws, and the key role of all socialist economic components, the state must control and provide guidance for these economic components to operate under a common plan and participate actively in developing the production of goods.

Uneven socioeconomic development among various localities and regions is an existing objective shortcoming. However, the strengths of localities vary. In view of this, it is necessary to invest intensively in regions and establishments with large quantities of marketable products while expanding circulation and eliminating all irrational procedures that obstruct circulation and frustrate market operation. Production is the base. However, circulation can help develop the production of goods if it is carried out under favorable conditions. It is necessary to organize the transportation of goods in a rational manner, ensuring that goods are delivered directly from the point of production to the consumers with minimum expense and without going through various unnecessary

intermediary links. Shortly before the recent Tet celebration, thanks to the policy of easing circulation, some cities and industrial complexes were able to overcome a shortage of certain commodities. Along with ensuring the interests of producers, we must enforce policies to distribute interests appropriately to the components that participate in the circulation of goods. However, easing the circulation of goods does not necessarily mean eliminating state control. It actually means replacing the method of bureaucratic administrative control through checkpoints with the method of control right at the source, thus easing circulation while intensifying market management and frustrating tax dodgers and smugglers.

The important criteria for evaluating each locality, production organization, and family at this time are the quantity and quality of goods that have been produced under plans. Various policies toward all economic components should be enforced at an early date to release all of their production capabilities and encourage them to participate in accelerating the production of socialist goods.

Briefs

Vietnamese Labor in USSR

The Vietnam Labor Management Committee in the Soviet Union recently held a conference to review its 1987 tasks and discuss 1988 work. At present, there are more than 40,000 Vietnamese laborers studying and working at 192 enterprises in 96 Soviet cities. In 1987, Vietnamese laborers actively participated in the socialist emulation movement and contributed to fulfilling production plan norms of these enterprises. Vietnamese textile and construction workers, after 4 years of studying and working in the Soviet Union, have acquired top professional skills in their fields. Many of them have won prizes and received commendation letters at various professional skill contests and from factories. Along with studying and engaging in production, Vietnamese laborers have also participated in cultural and social activities. The conference stressed that, in 1988, Vietnamese workers should strive to work and study harder, strengthen unity, promote a healthy cultural life, and oppose negative phenomena. [Summary] *[Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Mar 88 BK]*

Fiji

Australian Justice Minister Arrives in Suva
BK020847 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0700 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Australia's justice minister, Senator Michael Tate, has arrived in Suva for 2 days of talks with Fiji law officials. It is a first visit to Fiji by an Australian minister since the country became a republic last October.

Senator Tate was met at Suva airport by Fiji's justice minister and attorney general, Mr Salosi Kepa.

During his visit Senator Tate will also meet the secretary of Fiji's Trade Union Congress, Mr Mahendry Chaudhary, who was finance minister in a short-lived Bavadra government ousted in the country's first military coup last May.

The Australian minister, who has already visited Philippines and Thailand on his current tour, is due to leave for Vanuatu tomorrow.

New Caledonia

New Arrests Reported; Senate Team Arrives
BK020020 Hong Kong AFP in English 0010 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Noumea, March 1 (AFP)—Two more Melanese have been detained in connection with attacks on police officers in the French South Pacific Territory of New Caledonia, police said Tuesday.

Valentin Maperi was questioned Sunday after gendarmes were shot at the same day near the tribal area of Saint-Louis, 15 kilometres (10 miles) south of Noumea, police said.

Mr. Maperi, who is also suspected of involvement in a gunfight in November involving young Melanese and police, also in Saint-Louis, was arrested Tuesday, police said.

Antoine Poydoyalwane was detained after being questioned in connection with an attack on gendarmes February 22 near Poindimie in eastern New Caledonia in which more than 20 people were hurt and 10 policemen taken hostage overnight.

A second person questioned about the incident during the previous 24 hours was released, police said.

Ten Melanesian militants have already been arrested and charged with involvement in the Poindimie incidents.

Also Tuesday, a four-man group from the French Senate Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence and the Armed Forces arrived here for a four-day fact-finding visit.

They will look into "all questions relative to the Armed Forces and the Gendarmerie", a member of their entourage said.

Western Samoa

Va'ai Kolone Replaced as Coalition Leader
BK020754 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0700 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister of Western Samoa, Mr Va'ai Kolone has been replaced as leader of the ruling coalition. The new leader of the coalition which comprises the Christian Democratic Party and a group of independents known as the Va'ai Kolone group is the former deputy prime minister, Mr Tapua Tamasese Efi.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says the leadership change followed a unanimous decision at a coalition caucus meeting at which Mr Va'ai Kolone became deputy leader.

Mr Tapua Tamasese Efi was prime minister of West Samoa [title as heard] from 1976 to 1982.

AAP reports that the coalition had decided to form a new political group, but a coalition spokesman said its name would not be announced immediately. Meanwhile, political maneuvering is continuing following elections last week in which the Human Rights Protection Party had provisionally won 25 seats, the coalition 17, and independents 5.

Final results in three seats which are still in doubt could reverse the provisional result as neither side has yet claimed victory or conceded defeat.

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